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BY DAVID L. JONES

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- Part Three: Epiphytic Orchids
- Appendix: Naturalised Orchids

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From the Editor's Desk



Michael Harrison from Macquarie Native Orchids has been growing the indigenous species for over four decades. He has been fortunate to have seen most of the Australian epiphytic orchids in the wild, so is highly attuned to their cultural requirements. In this issue Mike provides us with a pictorial of some of the rock and tree orchids of the New South Wales north coast, with details of the types of habitat they are most likely found in.

Brian Milligan has provided several articles this issue. One is on the unique *Epidendrum ilense*, which sadly may be extinct in the wild. Thankfully it is now well entrenched in cultivation in greenhouses throughout the world, however a wild population is always preferred over an artificial one. He also discusses the popular trend of using coco peat and perlite as a medium for potted orchids. Brian's other note is a predominantly historical one on the large flowered *Bulbophyllum lobbii*, a species that is most amenable to cultivation and will grow into specimen size quickly if given ideal conditions. Bill Williams from Queensland, who has a large and amazing *Bulbophyllum* collection, shares one of his new hybrids with us, that ironically has *B. lobbii* in its background. Bill has made (and continues to make) interesting *Bulbophyllum* hybrids with emphasis on the larger flowered species and hybrids.

There have been some outstanding new books released over the past few months. Many of these are large (and heavy) works that have been many years in the making. Such works, although somewhat initially expensive, tend to pass the test of time and increase significantly in value once they become out of print. Such books seldom have a high print run, and when sold out are rarely reprinted. The three best places to source orchid books in Australia are Orchidaceous Books (operated by Grahame & Margaret Muller). They advertise in this magazine and have an extensive website www.orchidaceousbooks.com

The Australian Orchid Foundation also stock a range of orchid books, mostly regional floras and monographs. Florilegium (Gil Teague) at 145 St Johns Street Glebe, NSW has a massive inventory of new and antique books covering a broad spectrum of plants, including orchids. Gil has been able to obtain many rare and out-of-print titles that don't seem to last long on his bookshelves. I even heard a rumour that he is about to launch a website!

In this issue Eric Christenson reviews the recently published work of the Baker's: *Orchid Species Culture: Oncidium/Odontoglossum Alliance*. Whilst Helene Wild reviews *Flora of the Otway Plain and Ranges* by Enid Mayfield. Helene is the Editor of the ANOS Victoria Group's *Bulletin*. This monthly publication is arguably the finest and most information packed journal devoted to Australian orchids. Due to their location, there is a heavy terrestrial bias within this group. They have recently started sending out their colour *Bulletin* by email at a reduced price of \$18- per year. For further details please contact Helene by email: helene.wild@optusnet.com.au I know many people have joined simply so that they can participate in their extensive tuber bank initiative.

David P. Banks

Editor, Australian Orchid Review
davidpbanks@veritel.com.au

OUR COVER



Cym. Memoria Dean Roesler
'Kalbeeba' shown by Phil Grech.

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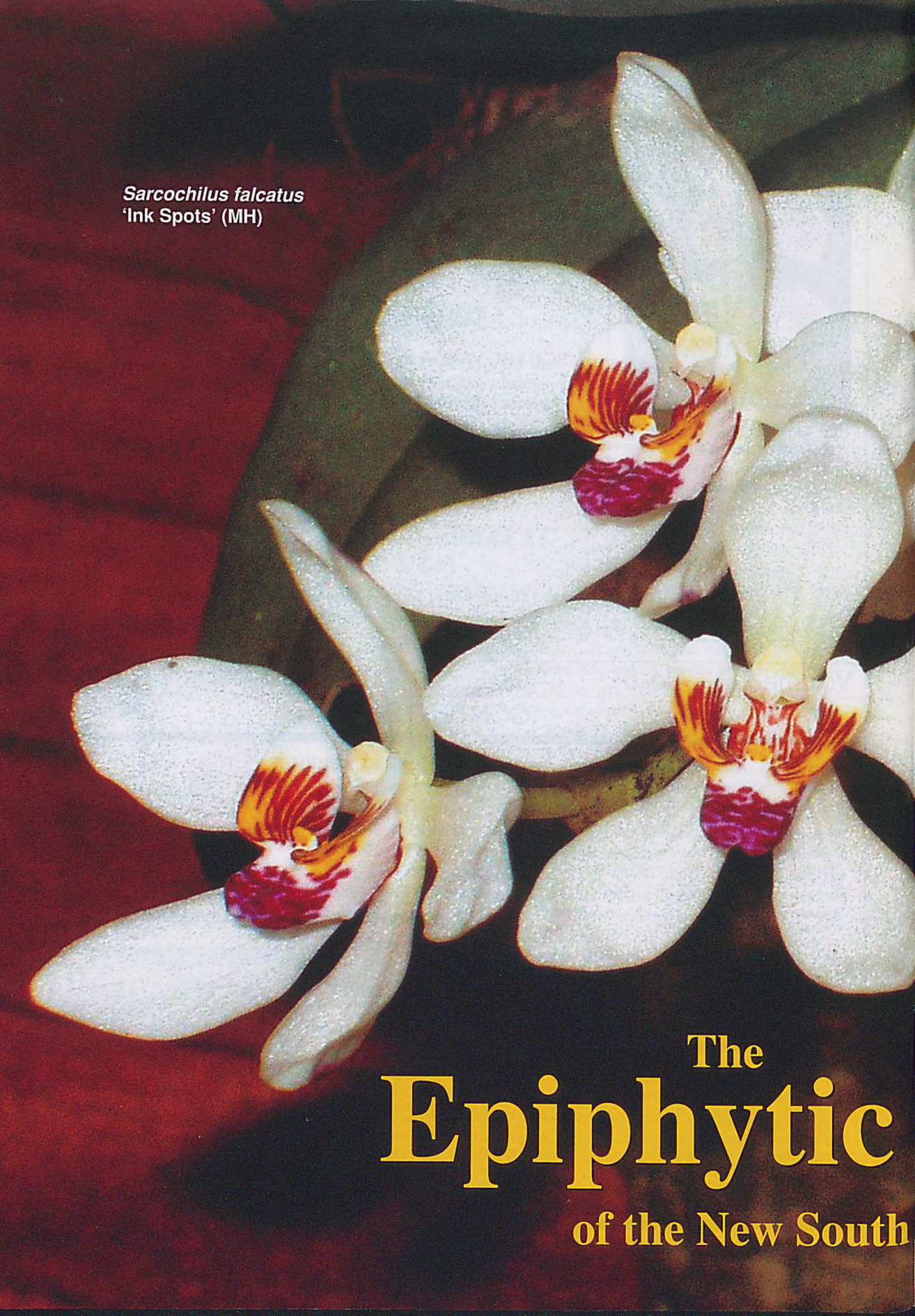
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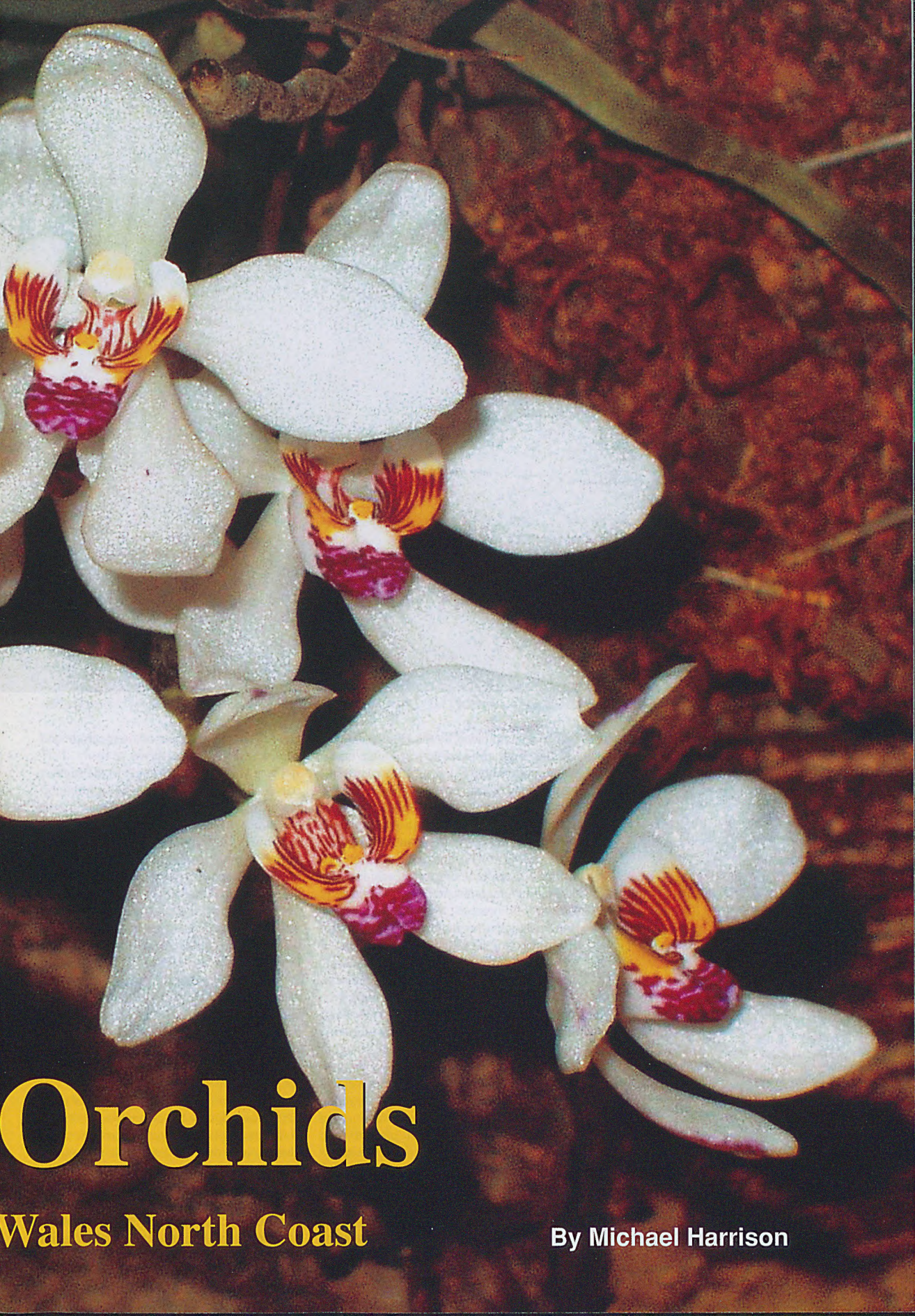
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Sarcochilus falcatus
'Ink Spots' (MH)

The
Epiphytic
of the New South



Orchids

Wales North Coast

By Michael Harrison



Dockrillia teretifolia Gosford (DB) Inset: *Dockrillia teretifolia* Gosford (DB)

Dendrobium melaleucaphilum Watagan Mountains (DB)



The area bounded by the Hunter River in the south, the McPherson Range on the north, and inland to the Great Dividing Range, represents one of the most orchid rich regions in Australia. Over a distance of some 500 kilometres north to south, and at altitudes up to 1400 metres on the ranges, around 60 species of epiphytic orchids occur.

At an average distance from the coast of just 125 kilometres, the Great Dividing Range defines the region both geographically and floristically. Moisture laden air coming in from the Pacific Ocean, and forced to rise by increasing altitude, dumps abundant rainfall, constantly topping up the highland swamps and sphagnum bogs. Small tributaries merge into fast flowing mountain streams which sculpt and contour the land, creating steep-sided gorges and deep, verdant valleys. As they drop in elevation, these streams slow, eventually coming together to form the mighty coastal rivers of the eastern seaboard. High plateaus and tablelands, interspersed by countless rounded peaks, rocky outcrops and cliff-edged bluffs create an ever-changing and at times dramatic landscape. Vast forests of eucalypts clothe the valleys and mountain sides, and where aspect, rainfall and soil type

create suitable conditions, temperate and subtropical rainforests thrive.

From the coastal lowlands to the highest peaks of the Divide, epiphytic orchid habitats are many and varied, with such factors as elevation, aspect, temperature range, air movement, prevailing winds and precipitation working in concert to create conditions to suit each species. Some orchid species are quite cosmopolitan in their requirements and occur over a wide range, whilst others are much more specialized, with only a very narrow tolerance for the conditions they need for survival.

The eastern seaboard features some spectacular scenery, from beautiful golden beaches, rocky headlands and rock platforms, to extensive bays and coastal lakes. In protected estuarine forests around tidal lake systems and rivers occur several specialized species. *Dockrillia teretifolia*, the bridal veil orchid, is host specific, growing only on *Casuarina glauca*, the swamp oak, often in abundance where conditions are suitable. Usually in flower by the middle of August, this species blooms prolifically and is highly perfumed.

In low-lying paperbark swamps, *Dendrobium melaleucaphilum* colonises *Melaleuca styphelioides*, the prickly-leaved



Peristeranthus hillii Numinbah Valley (JR) Inset: *Peristeranthus hillii* Port Macquarie – two colour forms (DT)

paperbark, in some places in large numbers. With clusters of slender, elegant, honey-coloured flowers up to 10 cm. tall, it is a horticulturally popular species. Its close relative, the smaller flowered *Dendrobium tetragonum*, occurs in similar situations close to the coast, although the two species do not seem to actually grow together. *Dendrobium tetragonum* also extends further inland, and may be seen on a number of different hosts at moderate to higher elevations near creeks and in rainforest.

Also occurring in coastal swamps and lowland littoral rainforests are *Oberonia complanata* and *Oberonia palmicola*, the former a larger growing plant with yellowish green flowers, and the latter a more diminutive species with russet red flowers, and a distribution extending from near Port Macquarie into southern Queensland.

Like *Oberonia complanata*, *Dockrillia bowmanii* is restricted in its NSW distribution to the very north eastern corner of the state, although it may be locally common. It produces green flowers in two bursts during late summer and autumn.

Peristeranthus hillii is a moderately large sarcanth, with its southern limit of distribution at Port Macquarie. A spring flowering species, it produces long pendulous inflores-

cences with small greenish flowers, usually heavily marked with purple.

Two of Australia's three *Cymbidium* species occur in the region. *C. madidum* in NSW is restricted to the lowlands and coastal ranges, northwards from Kempsey, where it grows on a variety of hosts in coastal swamps and rainforests. *Cymbidium suave* tolerates a wider altitudinal range, occurring near the coast, as well as on the ranges to at least moderate elevations. It usually colonises *Eucalyptus* spp. in sclerophyll forest, but will also grow on *Casuarina* and *Melaleuca*. A favoured situation is the stump of a long-ago logged tree, where the orchid may grow to considerable proportions.

The third Australian member of the genus, *Cymbidium canaliculatum*, has been recorded from the upper Hunter Valley, and from a few areas on the central tablelands. However, its main areas of distribution are on the western slopes and plains, where it is quite common, invariably growing on gum trees.

Bulbophyllum minutissimum, *B. shepherdii* and *B. exiguum*, along with *Dockrillia linguiformis* and *Plectorrhiza tridentata* also may be seen close to the coast but they commonly extend to the highlands as well.

Away from the coast at low to moderate

elevations, a number of different species appear or become more common. *Dendrobium aemulum* occurs in three vegetative forms. On ironbark gum trees grows a form with relatively short, stocky pseudobulbs, often suffused pink due to high levels of

Sarcochilus spatulatus Dorriggo (DB)





Dendrobium tetragonum Kippax (DB)

Dockrillia bowmanii (MH)



Dendrobium aemulum (MH)

light. The brush box, *Lophostemon confertus*, hosts a taller growing form with more slender pseudobulbs, usually produced in a radicular arrangement. And, in rainforest situations, growing on a number of hosts, an intermediate form occurs. All forms produce

Bulbophyllum shepherdii Royal National Park (MH)





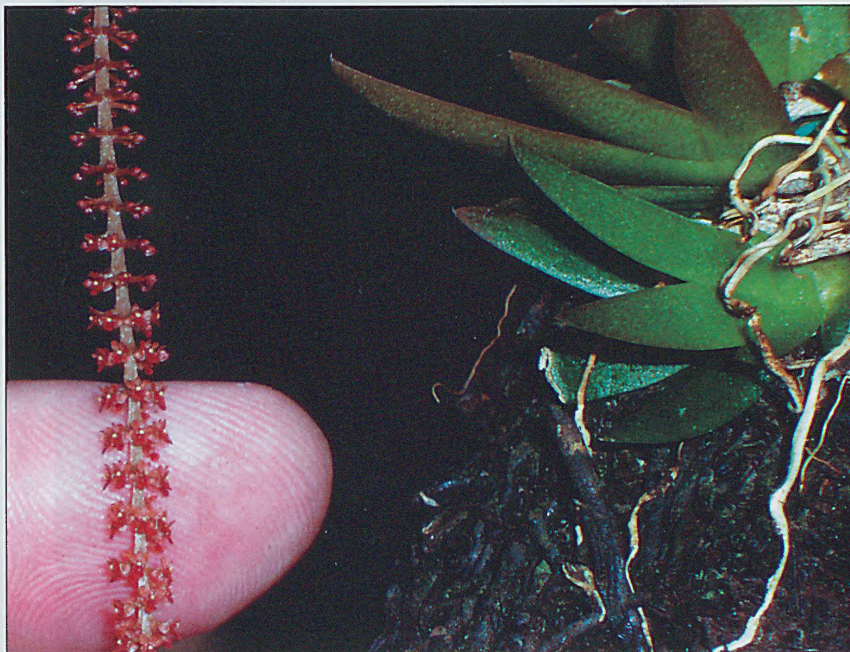
sprays of feathery white flowers in late winter and early spring.

Dendrobium gracilicaule usually grows epiphytically on rainforest trees, but is also commonly seen as a lithophyte on cliffs and rocky hillsides in fairly open situations. Its



Cymbidium suave (famous Norm Shipway plant)

Oberonia palmicola Hastings Valley (DB)





Dockrillia linguiformis Royal National Park (MH) **Inset:** *Bulbophyllum minutissimum* Boonoo Boonoo (DB)
Plectorrhiza tridentata Picton (DB)



cream to sulphur yellow flowers are generally heavily marked with brick red on the backs of the segments, but a clear unspotted green form is known to occur infrequently.

Dendrobium monophyllum occurs from



Bulbophyllum exiguum. Dove Mountain (MH)



Dockrillia cucumerina Gloucester (MH)

around Grafton northwards, extending to far north Queensland. It grows mainly on rocks but also on rainforest trees, often forming quite large plants. It produces erect inflorescences with butter yellow flowers. Its rela-



Dendrobium gracilicaule Barrington Tops (DB)

Sarcochilus parviflorus Dorrigo (DB)





Rhinerrhiza divitiflora (DT)



Papillilabium beckleri (DT)

tive, *Dendrobium schniederiae* is seen on and around the McPherson Range, growing on rainforest trees. It is a vegetatively smaller species which carries pendulous inflorescences of greenish yellow flowers.

Usually seen well away from the coast at moderate elevations is *Dockrillia cucumerina*, which grows almost exclusively on *Casuarina cunninghamiana*, the river oak, commonly on the trunk and lower branches and often in considerable numbers.

Within the *Sarcanthinae*, many species occur in sheltered, shady situations in rainforest, especially on or near watercourses. *Sarcochilus olivaceus* is prolific in some places, with colonies of many hundreds of plants, usually growing epiphytically but

occasionally as lithophytes on rocks on the rainforest floor. Its chunky green flowers, produced in spring, have an unusual but pleasant pine fragrance. Sadly, the name *S. olivaceus* seems doomed to synonymy, as *S. parviflorus* has priority due to prior publication.

Sarcochilus hillii, a delightful gem, carries crystalline white or pale pink flowers, produced progressively over the spring to early summer period. It commonly grows as a twig epiphyte, but will also colonise the main trunk and branches of host trees, usually in or near rainforest. *Sarcochilus spathulatus*, another twig epiphyte from moderate to higher altitudes, commonly grows on the hoop pine, *Araucaria cunninghamii*, but also

Sarcochilus hillii (DT)



Sarcochilus weinthalii Toowoomba (DB)

readily colonises other trees and shrubs, especially on rainforest margins in mist zones. It blooms in the spring and the flowers come in a range of colours from clear apple green to chocolate brown.

Two small twig epiphytes, *Plectorrhiza tridentata* and *Papillilabium beckleri* are often found growing together on the outermost limbs of trees along rainforest creeks. *Rhinerrhiza divitiflora*, the raspy-root orchid, favours dense rainforest and is commonly seen low down on the main trunk of the host in heavy shade. Large specimens may have a leaf span of 30 cm. and the multiple sprays of spidery orange flowers, although short-lived, are striking.

Both *Sarcochilus dilatatus* and *Sarcochilus weinthalii* occur in the very north eastern corner of NSW and are rare in this state. They both prefer moderate elevations well away from the coast and tend to grow in "dry scrub" rainforest. *S. dilatatus*



Sarcophilus aequalis Ellenborough Falls (DB)



Sarcophilus hartmannii Border Ranges (DB)

Sarcophilus fitzgeraldii has a wider distribution, occurring from the Dorrigo Plateau to the McPherson Range. It prefers shady, sheltered situations, often growing on rock faces and large boulders along steep-sided mountain streams. Its white blooms have varying amounts of purple around the centre, with occasional plants carrying full purple flowers.

Sarcophilus aequalis, known for many years as the "southern form" of *S. hartmannii*, is distributed from the Comboyne Plateau to Dorrigo. It grows on cliff faces on the sides of gorges, often near waterfalls. The buff coloured flowers appear in early spring.

Sarcophilus ceciliae colonises cliff faces and large boulders on rocky hillsides, often

in quite open, exposed situations where the plants are exposed to strong light. It is vegetatively smaller than the preceding three species, and produces fleshy, erect, grey-green leaves, and erect to arching sprays of soft pink flowers. The correct name for the NSW species is actually *S. eriochilus*; the true *S. ceciliae* with larger, darker pink flowers is from further north in Queensland.

Usually seen at moderate elevations, but extending in places to both the lowlands and the highlands, is *Dendrobium kingianum*, an often abundant, widespread lithophyte, with a very variable vegetative form. The subject of much horticultural attention over the years, *D. kingianum* comes in a range of colours from pure white to dark purple,

produces its brown flowers progressively during spring and summer, whilst *S. weinthalii* carries off-white flowers heavily marked with brownish purple spots and blotches.

The truly lithophytic *Sarcophilus* species make an interesting and horticulturally popular subgroup, and line breeding and hybridization within the genus has been focused understandably on these orchids. *Sarcophilus hartmannii* is largely restricted to areas on and around the McPherson Range along the NSW/Queensland border, where it grows on cliffs and steep, rocky hillsides in fairly protected but somewhat open situations. It occurs as several similar but discreetly different geographical forms, including the so-called "Blue Knob" and "Numinbah Valley" forms. *S. hartmannii* carries upright to arching inflorescences of up to 20 pure white flowers with a little reddish brown around the centre.

Sarcophilus fitzgeraldii Border Ranges (DB)





Bulbophyllum weinthalii Dorrigo (DB)



Liparis coelogyne Dove Mountain (MH)



Dendrobium speciosum Blue Mountains (MH)



Bulbophyllum elisae EF (top) & RR (below)

although most wild plants are a mid-range pink with a contrasting white and purple lip.

Two members of the *Dendrobium speciosum* complex occur in the region. The true *Dendrobium speciosum* (the type form) reaches its northern limit of distribution at Alum Mountain, immediately behind the township of Bulahdelah. This lithophyte is probably our most loved and widely cultivated native species, and a great deal of line breeding and hybridizing has involved this spectacular orchid, commonly known as the "rock-lily". It carries arching sprays of white, cream or yellow flowers in spring. The second species is *Dendrobium tarberi*, still widely referred to as *D. speciosum* var. *hillii*, a taller growing, more floriferous orchid, carrying smaller flowers which usually are not widely opening. It generally grows as an epiphyte on rainforest trees, although it is by no means uncommon to see it growing on rock faces as well, and its distribution extends from just north of the Hawkesbury River into south-eastern Queensland.

Genus *Bulbophyllum* is represented at moderate to high elevations by a number of interesting species. *Bulbophyllum elisae* grows on trees in rainforest, as well as on cliff faces and large boulders, and generally produces erect to arching sprays of green flowers. However, there is an uncommon form that carries pendulous inflorescences of greenish flowers heavily marked with pink stripes and suffusions.

Bulbophyllum weinthalii grows only on the hoop pine, *Araucaria cunninghamii*, where it colonises the upper trunk and lateral branches, at times profusely. It occurs on the Dorrigo Plateau and the McPherson Range, and there is another population further north in Queensland, at Kroombit Tops, inland from Gladstone. Its relatively large flowers are produced singly in autumn, and are a greenish cream, variously spotted or blotched with purple.

Also growing exclusively on the hoop



Dockrillia fairfaxii (DB)



Dendrobium falcorostrum Banda Banda (MH)

pine on the McPherson Range and into south-eastern Queensland is *Bulbophyllum globuliforme*, a true miniature with 2 mm. wide globular pseudobulbs and a single, small bract-like leaf. It carries masses of nodding, bell-shaped, creamy white flowers in spring, which are produced singly on 15 mm. tall inflorescences. It is related to *B. minutissimum* and some botanists place these two species in their own genus, *Oncophyllum*.

Bulbophyllum bracteatum from on and around the McPherson Range forms clumps on tree limbs in rainforest, and in some places also grows as a lithophyte on cliffs and boulders. Its highly coloured purple or brick red flowers are carried on arching inflorescences in spring.

Also from around the McPherson Range is *Bulbophyllum lamingtonense*, a close relative of *B. shepherdii*, but with a more restricted distribution. Vegetatively, it is a

larger growing plant, with longer, thicker leaves, and a tendency to become pendulous with age. The flowers too are somewhat larger than *B. shepherdii*, although they are the same colour, creamy yellow with a russet red lip.

Bulbophyllum schillerianum occurs northwards from around Bulahdelah, extending all the way to far north Queensland. It is usually seen at moderate elevations growing on rainforest trees, and large plants become pendulous, with rhizomes up to 40 cm. long. It carries masses of small orange flowers which arise from bracts along the rhizome.

A rare species, *Bulbophyllum argyropus*, also known from Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands, grows on both the Dorriggo Plateau and the McPherson Range. It grows on the upper trunk and branches of rainforest trees, including the hoop pine, and carries small,



Sarcophilus ceciliae (left, Townsville-Qld) & *Sarcophilus eriochilus* Ellenborough Falls (DB)



Bulbophyllum globuliforme (RP)



Bulbophyllum argyropus (DB)



Sarcophilus falcatus Dorrigo (DB)



Sarcophilus australis Blue Mountains (MH)



Erythrorchis cassythoides Royal National Park (MH)



Dockrillia pugioniformis two clones Dorrigo (MH)



Sarcophilus australis Glen Innes (DB)

cream flowers with an orange lip.

The high elevation cool temperate rainforests between 900 and 1200 metres are home to *Dendrobium falcatostrum*, its crystalline white flowers and superb perfume making it one of our loveliest orchids. Distributed from Barrington Tops, just north of the Hunter River, to the McPherson Range, *D. falcatostrum* is host specific to the Antarctic beech, *Nothofagus moorei*, and many a massive old tree supports dozens of plants perched on its upper trunk and main laterals.

Several members of genus *Dockrillia* occur predominantly at higher altitudes. *Dockrillia pugioniformis*, *D. schoenina*, *D. mortii* and *D. fairfaxii* are often seen growing together in similar situations on rainforest trees in the mountains. *D. pugioniformis* also regularly grows on rocks. Around the McPherson Range, *D. fairfaxii* is replaced by its close relative, *D. dolichophylla*, which carries bronze/gold flowers rather than the white flowers of *D. fairfaxii*.

Sarcophilus falcatus, the orange blossom orchid, reaches its best development at higher elevations, especially in mist zones, where it colonises rainforest trees on hill-sides and ridge tops. Florally, it is quite variable in shape and size, and the most horticulturally attractive forms produce inflorescences of up to 10 sparkling white flowers with bright yellow and purple markings on the labellum side lobes and chin. It is without doubt one of our most beautiful orchids, with a distribution extending from eastern Victoria to far north Queensland, and an altitudinal range from sea level to 1400 metres.

Better known from further south in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania is *Sarcophilus australis*. North of the Hunter River, this species only occurs high on the ranges and is quite uncommon. It forms colonies on rainforest trees and shrubs, generally near creeks. These northern populations appear to produce flowers with a wider colour range than the typically green forms from further south,

and brownish and pinkish tones are not uncommon.

Another small twig epiphyte, *Schistotylus purpuratus*, is only ever encountered in the highlands, usually growing on shrubs and small trees on rocky hillsides or near watercourses. It is a colony forming species and large numbers may be seen relatively small areas.

There are three *Liparis* species in the region. The dainty *L. coelogyneoides* is a rainforest epiphyte, which at times forms large clumps of the trunk and main limbs of a number of host trees. It carries arching inflorescences of almost transparent tea-coloured flowers. The other two species are *L. reflexa* and *L. swenssonii*. They are both lithophytes which produce erect inflorescences of greenish yellow flowers with an unpleasant scent.

Taeniophyllum muelleri is a small-growing plant which colonises the outer branches of rainforest trees, usually at moderate elevations. The plant produces no leaves and relies upon its thin photosynthetic roots for sustenance. A short, slender inflorescence arising from the centre of the plant carries up to a dozen or so progressively opening, small, tubular, green flowers.

Whilst not a true epiphyte, *Erythrorchis cassythoides*, a climbing saprophytic species, usually grows in sclerophyll forest, where it grows in the ground and climbs up the trunks of gum trees, generally only to one or two metres. It carries bunches of yellow flowers with a white lip. A related species, *Pseudovanilla foliata*, also a climbing saprophyte, is a much taller growing plant which grows in rainforest and produces clusters of yellow flowers with a wide, ruffled white and orange labellum.

Photographs used in this article have been taken by David Banks, Michael Harrison, Ron Parsons, John Roberts and David Titmuss.

Michael Harrison
Macquarie Native Orchids
email: mwharrison@ozemail.com.au

Vale Irvine (Herbie) Morschel



Herbie and Josie Morschel joined the Shoalhaven Orchid Society in 1989 and immediately became active in all society activities. Herbie was a dedicated worker, managing the sales table for many years and always around when something needed to be done, usually with a great smile on his face. As he was very handy around the workshop he always seemed to be fixing something for the society assisting with the Newsletter or building display tables. Herbie loved his orchids and proved to be culturally aware, with a wide range of genera in his collection. He also had the knack of flowering some of those more difficult species. His contribution was recognised several years ago with the Orchid Society of New South Wales Meritorious Service Medal and was our most recent Life Member, attaining this honour in February 2005. At the young age of 73 Herbie succumbed to a severe and unexpected heart attack and passed away on 9th July 2006. He will be sadly missed by all members of the society and our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Josie and their family. ■

Alan W. Stephenson
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Suggested Guidelines for Judging Species Orchids

By David P. Banks

There are a number of factors that can influence the judges' decision when assessing species orchids for prizes at shows or monthly meetings, championships and awards. Obviously it is impossible for any individual or collective group of people to be an "expert" on every one of the 30,000 plus orchid species that have been described. However, many of the popular horticultural genera and species have been in cultivation for many years and have been well documented in books, periodicals and now websites (however not all websites have correct information and botanical determinations). This enables us to make comparisons between different clones of a given species, to see the variation in shape, colour, size (if dimensions are given) and flowering habits.

Whilst it is relatively easy to apply a set of uniform judging standards for specific groups of orchids, such as complex paphiopedilums, standard cymbidiums and the like, it becomes harder when you have highly varied examples within the one genus, such as *Dendrobium* and *Masdevallia*.

I believe there should be some guidelines to assist judges with their assessments and decisions when judging species orchids. Some will be obvious, whilst others will be more subtle. What follows are some comments and questions you may ask yourself, which are open to further discussion by regional and national judging panels.

- Is the plant in question a species, and correctly identified?
- The plant should be well established, either in its pot or on a slab.
- The plant should be healthy.
- The plant should be free of any signs of pests and diseases.
- Is it an above average example of the species, or is it an average form grown well?
- Is it an outstanding form of the species?
- Rarity should not be a consideration in the awarding process. Unless the plant is being considered for a CBM (Certificate of Botanical Merit), but only in instances where the taxon in question has obvious horticultural qualities. This award should only ever be granted once to the species in question (even though there are examples where this has not been followed).
- Superb culture should not guarantee a quality award, but is obviously an important fact when assessing for cultural certificates.
- Are there enough flowers on the plant, considering its size?
- Is it a mature plant or a seedling with greater potential?
- In the case of terrestrials, the pot should preferably be of the same clone. If not, the spe-

cific plant to be awarded should be made known to the judging panel and show marshals, however only one placing can be given per pot or exhibit.

- Similarly, if a number of individual plants of a particular species is growing on a mount or slab, only the best plant should be considered for a prize. It is not wise to set a precedent of awarding say 1st 2nd & 3rd to plants essentially benched as one exhibit.

- Is the colour clean, with any markings or shadings well defined?

- Is it good colour for the species? Darker is not always better!

- Is it a "horticulturally desirable" species? These are taxa that look impressive when well grown – regardless of the individual quality of the clone. Examples include *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*, *Dendrobium chrysotermum*, *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum* plus many of the Chinese slipper orchids such as *Paphiopedilum micranthum*, *P. malipoense* and *P. armeniacum* and the larger flowered *Catasetum* and *Dracula* species.

- Be cautious (for panels in temperate climates) when assessing plants that are seldom seen in your local area, such as many of the tropical Vandaceous hybrids, "hardcane" *Dendrobium* hybrids etc. What may appear to be high quality may in fact be the norm in other regions.

- Similarly, (again in temperate climates) don't ignore or be too hard on orchid genera and species that are common in cultivation and suited to your climate, such as *Disa*, *Masdevallia*, *Sarcophilus* and *Pleione* for example.

- Different groups of judges will almost always have different interpretations than other similar groups. Obviously the larger the panel, the more uniform the result.

- Make sure the plant is in flower! You may laugh, but I have seen this happen a few times with miniature flowered species where the judges really have not had a close look. Sadly this happened at the AOC conference and show this year, with an *Oberonia* (one of the tiny Australian epiphytic "Fairy Orchids") gaining a first place, yet the Photo CD of the winning plants clearly shows two images of the plant in bud, with not a single flower open! Miniature orchids deserve the same respect as their larger relatives.

- Trainee and Student judges should always be encouraged to speak up if they see an anomaly that the officiating judges appear to have missed.

There are a number of plants that are often exhibited as "line-bred" species, which are actually hybrids, admittedly with high percentages of the true species in its background.

Common examples of this include:

- *Cattleya amethystoglossa*
- *Cattleya intermedia*
- *Cattleya loddigesii*
- *Cattleya walkeriana* var. *alba*
- *Coelogyne pandurata*
- *Cymbidium insigne*
- *Dendrobium bigibbum*
- *Dendrobium kingianum*
- *Doritis pulcherrima*
- *Laelia anceps*
- *Laelia pumila*
- *Odontoglossum crispum*
- *Odontoglossum nobile*
- *Oncidium varicosum*
- *Paphiopedilum insigne*
- *Phalaenopsis amabilis*
- *Phragmipedium schlimii*
- *Pleione formosana*

- *Sarcochilus ceciliae*
- *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii*
- *Sophranitis coccinea*
- *Vanda coerulea*
- *Zygopetalum mackayi*

There is also a plant frequently benched in Australia and New Zealand under the name of *Coelogyne mossiae*. I believe this plant is correctly referable to *Coelogyne Unchained Melody*, a primary hybrid between *C. flaccida* and *C. cristata*. These plants are often also seen incorrectly interpreted as *C. intermedia*. There are also plants masquerading under the name of *Coelogyne mooreana* with a predominantly dark chocolate labellum. These are in fact the hybrid *C. Mem. Louis Forget (mooreana x speciosa)*. Unfortunately at the recent AOC show, one of these plants was awarded a prize in the species class.

A good orchid judge should be pro-active and try to further his or her knowledge at every opportunity, using a variety of mediums. Obviously the more shows, conferences (local, interstate and international) attended will broaden your knowledge and appreciation for different types of orchids. You want to see as many orchids as you can. Talk to (and visit if possible) collections that specialise in a particular genus. There are many books dealing with species orchids, which offer a wealth of information. Of most credibility are regional floras and monographs on particular genera. There are also a number of highly regarded orchid periodicals that keep readers up-to-date with many of the newer discoveries, as well as examples of line bred species and awards. Some of the best ones that I recommend include *Awards Quarterly* (USA), *Orchid Digest* (USA), *Orchids* (USA) and obviously the *Australian Orchid Review* would be a must! *Orchids Australia* often publishes small photos of a number of recent awards.

There's also a growing wealth of information on the Internet, with some sites being more credible (and botanically correct) than others. You can also try typing the name of the species into Google and see some of the variation in the images presented.

I certainly don't pretend for a minute to have all the answers, but it seems few judges want to be positive and pro-active in discussing these issues. From speaking to many orchid societies and individuals around the country it is apparent that there are many knowledgeable judges that are willing to assist and help further promote this fine hobby, and sadly a tiny minority who appear to be judges only for the "status". It is not surprising then that these individuals are also the ones who often don't grow orchids and have the least knowledge which they try to mask.

We should always be trying to increase our knowledge. There will be further tips on orchid judging and awards in future issues, to assist those who grow and pass judgement on the plants we exhibit at shows and monthly meetings.

David P. Banks

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New *Bulbophyllum* Hybrid

By Bill Williams

I have been interested in *Bulbophyllum*s for many years and have built up a large collection of a wide range of species. This led to me hybridizing between various species in an attempt to produce some superior and easily grown hybrids.

The first seedlings between the recently discovered and described (1996) Philippine species *Bulbophyllum facetum* crossed with *Bulbophyllum* Wilmar Galaxy Star (*dearei* x *lobbii*) flowered early in 2003 and I subsequently registered it as *Bulbophyllum* Wilmar Candy Stripes. They are quite variable in colour and quite strong growers.

Included is a photograph of one of the more colourful examples of this hybrid for readers of the *Australian Orchid Review* see. Hopefully over time this grex will make its way into the collections of fellow "Bulbo" enthusiasts.

Bill Williams
Victoria Point, Queensland
Email: wilmar@tpg.com.au



Bulbophyllum Wilmar Candy Stripes (plant & photo Bill Williams)

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AOR 027

Coco Husk/Perlite Potting Mix

By Brian Milligan

About a year ago I began to re-pot a few Orchids in the 'new' coco husk/perlite mix (4:1 by volume) that was becoming fashionable. I first soaked the coco husks overnight in three changes of water to remove salt, and then blended it with 20% (by volume) of perlite. Recently I knocked a few of the re-potted orchids out of their pots to check the root systems, and was pleased with the results in some cases, less so in others.

One of the disadvantages of the above mix is that it retains water much longer than does pine bark. In terms of water conservation this may be a good thing but only if plants grown in coco husk/perlite mix are kept separate from those grown in bark, and watered separately. When the pots are benched together, as in my collection, those plants in coco husk/perlite remain too wet, which does not suit some orchid genera. If I wait longer before watering, then those plants potted in pine bark mixes become too dry.

Best results were obtained with cymbidiums and lycastes. All of the cymbidiums

that I checked had good, healthy roots, including those backbulbs that I removed during re-potting in November. The presence of perlite in the mix seemed to make no difference to the orchids' growth. Those lycaste hybrids that I had potted in coco husk/perlite mix did as well or better than those potted in bark. A pair of *Lycaste Shoalhaven* backbulbs, potted only five months ago, had leaves 200 mm tall and a well developed root system already – remarkable results for such a short time. On the other hand, one pair of *Lycaste Macama* backbulbs potted at the same time failed to strike, while the new growth from a second pair was only 20 mm tall. However, that's about par for the course – in my experience a 50% strike rate is as well as can be expected for lycastes, provided that one uses pairs of pseudobulbs; it's much lower if one uses single bulbs.

Results with masdevallias were mixed. *Masdevallia Parlitoriana*, a vigorous grower, did well and is currently carrying two flowers and three buds but other, less vigorous masdevallias seemed to struggle

in coco husk/perlite, and one or two died. There seems to me no advantage in transferring the rest from my traditional bark/sphagnum moss or moss/polystyrene foam potting mixes.

Australian native dendrobiums have grown reasonably well in coco husk/perlite but I fear that the mix may remain too wet during winter. The same applies to soft-cane dendrobiums – their keikis have grown well but will need to be watched carefully during winter. The New Guinea native *Dendrobium lawesii* is doing well in the new mix, as are several cool-growing coelogynes, which are difficult to over-water during the growing season.

My greatest success has been achieved with the Madagascan species *Angraecum magdalenae*, which has struggled ever since I acquired it six years ago. Since potting it in coco husk/perlite six months ago it has developed two new basal growths, while the pot is now filled with new healthy roots. I suspect that I have not provided it with sufficient water in previous times. Perhaps it will even flower in a year or two!

Other species, such as the PNG species *Mediocalcar decoratum*, the Asian *Bulbophyllum rothschildianum*, and the Mexican *Epidendrum porpax*, have grown satisfactorily but on knocking the plants from their pots, I found that most of the roots were aerial. This confirms my belief that these species do better when mounted, anyway.

Please bear in mind that the above results apply to orchids grown for only 6-12 months in the new mix. Whether those orchids that are growing well continue to do in future remains to be seen. After all, most potting mixes give good results for the first few months. Nearly all begin to deteriorate after that time, sometimes becoming acidic with deleterious effects to many orchids. I plan to transfer more of my cymbidiums and lycastes to the coco husk/perlite mix in spring but will wait another year before discarding bark-based mixes for most other genera.

Brian Milligan

North Balwyn, Victoria



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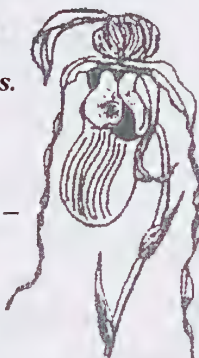
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AOR 025

Epidendrum ilense – Lost in the Wild

By Brian Milligan



Epidendrum ilense (photo: Ron Parsons)

In the *American Orchid Society Bulletin* (1981), Calaway Dodson, as Director of the Marie Selby Botanic Gardens in Florida USA, described a trip that he and two friends had made to Ecuador the previous year. Travelling through the Andean foothills near Centinela they came across a patch of forest that had been felled a few days previously. Searching through the hundreds of fallen trees in the five-acre clearing they found 62 different orchid species in only three hours.

One of these, obviously an *Epidendrum*, carried white flowers with a very frilly lip and was unknown to its discoverers. They collected all four

plants that they found and established them in cultivation in Florida (CITES regulations now forbid such behaviour). The orchid turned out to be a new species, to which Dodson gave the name *Epidendrum ilense*. Four large white flowers are usually produced at the apex of the long, slender, pendulous inflorescence. One should not cut the inflorescence when the flowers fade, because a new set of flowers soon develops from a lower node on the stem and so on, so that the orchid is almost always in flower.

Six months later Dodson returned to the same site in Ecuador, only to find that much more forest had been cut and the area planted in corn. He could find no

more plants of *E. ilense* on this and subsequent trips, and this beautiful species is now believed to be extinct in the wild. Fortunately, Dodson managed to raise more plants from the original four, both from seed and by tissue culture, and the orchid is now well established throughout the orchid growing world, including Australia. It is a tropical warm growing species that appreciates moderate light levels, high humidity and the temperature not dropping below 15°C. Thank goodness *Epidendrum ilense* was found before CITES regulations came into force! ■

Brian Milligan
North Balwyn, Victoria

Pay it with Flowers

When it comes to glamour in the garden, there's no doubt orchids are high on the list. Growing and cultivating one of the thousands of species of orchid is no longer confined to the wealthy – or the wealthy with time on their hands – but it can still be an expensive hobby for those who become really passionate about the flowers.

"Once you're hooked, you're hooked," says Debbi Wares, who has been growing orchids for years with her husband, Garry. "They're not cheap to buy and there's the ongoing time spent fertilising and caring for them as well."

"But the problem is once you get hooked you keep buying them – you keep seeing new ones ... it's just limitless, the varieties of colour you can get. You could never get one of everything."

The author of several books on orchids and editor of the *Australian Orchid Review*, David Banks, says that while young plants can be bought for as little as \$5 or \$10, the cost can soar into the hundreds and thousands.

"There's a bit of mystique about them," he says. "A hundred years ago orchids were only for the very, very wealthy – and that's obviously changed now, because superior propagation techniques have made the plants more readily available."

"I still believe there's a status sort of thing with them ... to me orchids are the pinnacle of the flowering plants. But I think the main thing that gets people in is that there's so much variety in orchids. There are more than 30,000 species – and a lot, obviously, that people have never seen."

"They cater to everybody: they're in every single colour that you can think of – even blues and blacks – and you get flowers from a couple of millimetres across [to more than 100cm]."

Living in Australia makes growing and caring for orchids much easier than in many countries overseas. Our climate means plenty of orchid varieties can be grown in the garden instead of a special greenhouse with heating or air-conditioning.

However, Banks warns those new to the art to research a plant's origin carefully before they decide how to look after it.

"You've got to do a bit of detective work because not only do you need to work to find out what country the orchid has come from originally, but also its habitat," he says.

"It's no use just saying it comes from Ecuador, because if it grows on the coast it's hot and tropical there, so it needs a heated glasshouse and wants to be kept warm and cosy all the time. But if it grows up in the high mountains just under the snowline it needs to be kept cool all the time. And it might be grown in a really wet area or a dry area."

"That's where orchid societies can help,



Cymbidium Dr Len 'Ruby Sunset' (photo: D.P. Banks)

because you generally find there's somebody else who's also growing that sort of plant or has tried to grow it."

Wares wishes she and her husband had the time to spare from their business commitments to join an orchid society as "I've always got questions to ask". Contacting a local society helped her track down a partic-

ular orchid she'd longed for – a miniature cascading *Cymbidium Dr Len 'Ruby Sunset'*.

"I saw it in a display a couple of years ago and I'd been trying to find it ever since," she says. "I just fell in love with the flower. It was beautiful – it looked like velvet."

The society put Wares in contact with an orchid grower in Western Australia, and her

cymbidium arrived a few weeks ago. She won't see the flowers she prizes for at least another year – "once they're in the pot, the roots have to fill the pot before they flower" – but she's happy to wait.

She's also quick to say that she and her husband don't have a big collection – "maybe only four or five different types" of orchid – but she's loved the flowers since she was a girl and is used to having them in the house or garden.

"There's just that something exotic about them," she says. "Also they last for a long time – for weeks. You can pick a spike of flowers and they do last for at least three weeks. If you leave them on the plant they'll last longer ... but you should cut them. It's better for the plant."

Banks says some big-time collectors become so obsessive about obtaining rare and beautiful orchids that they'll break the law to do it.

Recently discovered slipper orchids in South-East Asia are covered by the Convention for the International Trade of Endangered Species, which not only makes it very difficult to export the orchids to other countries, it makes them extremely valuable. But that hasn't stopped people trying to smuggle the plants into their home country so they can have one in the garden or greenhouse.

"There have been people in the United States and in Great Britain who have gone to jail for orchid smuggling," he says. I mention an episode of a British whodunit series in which a clutch of people are killed over a rare orchid. "I don't think it's got to that stage yet," he says with a laugh.

For information about orchids, societies, nurseries, auctions and photos of the flowers, see orchidsonline.com.au or anos.org.au. Those wanting to go to one of many shows and displays in Sydney and Melbourne should visit orchidsocietynsw.com.au or oscov.asn.au/shows.html for details of times and dates.

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AOR 004



Two clones of the variable *Bulbophyllum lobbii* (photo: Jim Cootes)

Bulbophyllum lobbii and Thomas Lobb

By Brian Milligan

Many *Bulbophyllum* species have rather small, short-lived flowers. An exception is *Bulbophyllum lobbii*, which has relatively large flowers that measure 8-10 cm across and last up to a month in good condition. The yellow flowers, borne singly, have a hinged labellum that nods up and down in the slightest breeze, a feature designed to catch the attention of passing pollinators. The first flowers on my plants opened early in January, but a few late flowers still remained in late March. My plants grow and flower quite satisfactorily in a glasshouse at a minimum temperature of 11°C but would probably do better if provided with a little more warmth in winter.

Bulbophyllum lobbii is a variable species that is found over quite a wide area through Asia, its habitat ranging from Malaysia, through Indonesia and Borneo to the Philippines. The species was first collected by Thomas Lobb, an employee of the famous British nursery of Veitch and Sons.

The Lobb brothers, William and Thomas, were born in Cornwall and began their horticultural training in the Cornish estate of Sir Charles Lemon, whose name is perpetuated by the well-known species *Coelogyne cristata* var. *lemoniana*. In the 1830s both William and Thomas sought employment in Veitch's nursery, which by

then had established a branch in Exeter, and was destined soon to become (for a time) the largest nursery in Britain (and the rest of the world).

In the 1840s Veitch sent Thomas Lobb to collect tropical and sub-tropical plants, particularly orchids and tropical pitcher plants (*Nepenthes* spp.), in various Asian countries. A succession of trips took him to Singapore, Malaya, Burma, Java, the Philippines and India. Some of the other orchids (apart from *Bulbophyllum lobbii*) that Thomas Lobb introduced into cultivation include *Dendrobium infundibulum*, *Vanda coerulea*, *Aerides fieldingii* (syn. *A. rosea*) and *Paphiopedilum villosum*. The loss of a leg resulted in his premature retirement in 1860. His name is perpetuated by the widely grown *Bulbophyllum lobbii* and also by *Spathoglottis lobbii* and the ornamental *Rhododendron lobbii*.

Thomas Lobb's brother William, one of a long line of collectors sent abroad by Veitch's nursery over the next sixty years, was sent to South America to collect cold-tolerant plants. His first major introduction to European horticulture was *Araucaria araucana*, the monkey puzzle tree. Sales of its seeds and seedlings alone were sufficient to pay Veitch's expenses for the expedition, thus persuading him to send more collectors abroad.

William Lobb introduced many other plants on this and subsequent trips but few were orchids. His greatest claim to fame was probably the discovery, in the Sierra Nevada of California, of the Calveras Grove, a group of 80 or 90 giant sequoia trees (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) measuring 250-320 ft tall and 10-20 ft in diameter. One hundred and fifty years later, Calveras Grove is still a major tourist attraction and giant sequoia trees can now be found growing in temperate countries all around the world. None are yet as large as those growing wild in California, although there are some magnificent old specimens to be found in the botanic gardens at Christchurch and Dunedin in the South Island of New Zealand.

The information about the Lobb brothers was gleaned from a book entitled *The Plant Hunters: Two Hundred Years of Adventure and Discovery around the World*, written by Musgrave, Gardner and Musgrave (1999). Beginning with the exploits of Joseph Banks, it outlines the travels and discoveries of ten of the world's best known plant collectors, ending with the adventures of Frank Kingdon-Ward in China and Burma between 1911 and 1957.

Brian Milligan
North Balwyn, Victoria

The Ultimate Thai Orchid Tour

Departing on the 24th November 2006 a ten night orchid tour of Thailand is planned. It is to be led by horticultural author Don Ellison and Ross McKinnon A.M., Curator of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens in Queensland. Based on past experience, Don has led ten previous tours to Thailand and Ross six, this tour promises to be their best yet!

First stop is The International Flower and Garden Expo in Chaing Mai in Northern Thailand. Reports already received indicate this International Garden Exposition has one of the largest Orchid Displays ever seen. While in Chaing Mai you will also inspect the internationally renowned Orchid Display at the Queen Sirikit Botanical Gardens. Tissue cultured orchids will be for sale at both the Botanical Gardens and 2 nearby *Vanda* orchid nurseries for around \$ 2.00 a flask. Chaing Mai also has an internationally renowned market with over one hundred plant stores, a number selling orchids.

Next stop: Bangkok and the World renowned Chatajak Plant Markets boasting 700 plant stores, many featuring rare specimens and flasks, tissue cultured plants for sale. Free touring time is also available in Bangkok and to follow up

valuable orchid nursery plant leads and visit to some of the world largest tissue culture laboratories.

A special treat while in Bangkok is the annual Thai Orchid Show. Last year more than 50 different Horticultural Associations were involved in this internationally famous event where once again flasks of orchids will be available for purchase. Another highlight of our Thai Tour is a visit to the Nong Nooch Botanical Gardens where we will be staying in on site accommodation among the Palm trees! Nong Nooch Botanical Gardens are the largest private tropical Botanic Gardens in the world with a staff numbering more than 1450! Huge permanent orchid displays and knowledgeable Curators, this promises to be an absolute treat for orchid lovers.

For more information phone Don Ellison, phone (07)5533-2955 and for flight booking details Vanessa Armstrong at flight centre (free call): phone 1300 301 900.

Looking forward to having all orchid lovers and good gardeners abroad! 

Ross McKinnon A.M.

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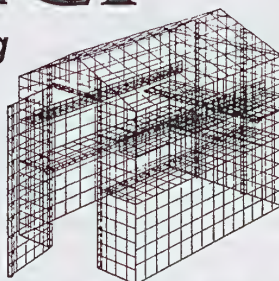
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Orchid Species Culture:

Oncidium/Odontoglossum Alliance

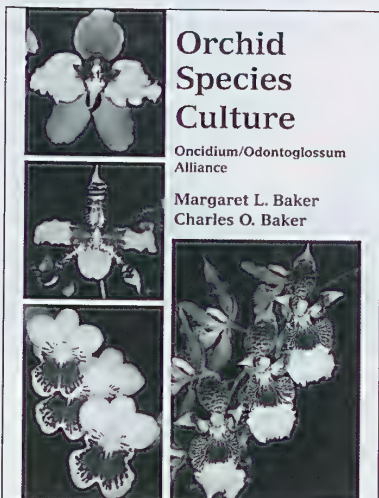
by Margaret L. Baker and Charles O. Baker

992 pp. 280mm x 215mm Hardcover.
Published by Timber Press,
Portland USA.

ISBN-10 0881927759

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AUD\$145.00



If one works with orchids long enough, one begins to cultivate friends who give sage advice like "it's okay to walk away" and "there is no shame in giving up". Such is the often daunting task of coping with enormous projects made more Herculean by the size and volatility of the orchid family. The orchid world owes a huge collective "thank you" to the Bakers for seeing their latest tome to fruition. In this thick volume (literally more than 2 inches thick) they have amassed a one stop guide to the

Oncidium alliance – treating the estimated 1200-1300 species distributed among some 87 genera.

The standardized format includes formal sections on (1) synonyms; (2) origin/habitat; (3) climate; (4) Cultural Recommendations further broken down into headings of temperatures, humidity, water, rest period, and notes; and (5) Plant and Flower Information similarly divided into descriptions of plant size and type, pseudobulb/stem, leaves, inflorescence, and flowers. Finally, each treatment ends with a list of numerical references that correspond to the 464 bibliographic citations toward the end of the volume. Each species treatment occupies more or less one full page of this quarto volume.

As with all Baker publications, highly specific climate data by month based on extrapolation from nearby weather stations is a hallmark. The numerical designations and localities for the stations used are included. Growers will appreciate the average maximum and minimum temperatures, the diurnal range in temperatures, rainfall amounts, and other detailed climate information that will help them identify the most suitable greenhouse microclimates.

The Bakers have done a remarkable job navigating the fluid generic limits in the alliance in selecting which genera to accept, although many readers may want to tweak the final groupings. For example, they opted to recognize *Cohniella* ("rat-tailed" *Oncidium*) and *Lophiaris* ("mule-eared" *Oncidium*) as separate from a broadly defined *Trichocentrum* while accepting a broad circumscription of *Cyrtorchilum* including *Dasyglossum* and *Trigonochilum* as well as elements from *Buesiella*, *Neodryas*, *Rusbyella*, and others. Because of this, and all the recent, DNA-based name changes in the alliance, readers will rely heavily on the Index to locate many species names amid

the newer classifications. Indeed, few books in modern memory require such frequent reference to the Index for guidance, a situation reminiscent of the break-up of tropical taxa of *Spiranthes* a little more than two decades ago.

For obvious practical reasons in a reference work of this sort, a cut-off date had to be established. The authors dodged the proverbial bullet there and thus avoided my recent, albeit minor, contributions of the genera *Brevilongium* and *Phymatochilum* as well as the plethora of new genera resulting from the break-up of the traditional concept of *Oncidium* in Brazil. The latter include genera such as *Alatiglossum*, *Brasilidium*, *Carenidium*, *Carriella*, *Grandiphyllum*, *Rhinocidium*, a significantly expanded *Baptistonia*, and a resurrected *Coppensia* (*Ampliglossum*).

The authors and publisher are to be commended for avoiding a perfunctory section of colour photographs and, except for the book jacket (featuring photographs by Ron Parsons); the volume is completely without illustrations. This greatly helps reign in the price of the volume. Most users will either be familiar with the plants concerned or be able to find illustrations in their personal library from one of the cited references.

Following the main body of the text, the Bakers provide two Appendices. First is an Appendix entitled *Orchid Growing Problems* further divided into sections on Preventing Disease, Identifying and Treating Plant Problems, and Using Chemicals Safely. The second, quite useful Appendix is Unit Conversions and Formulas for Greenhouse Management. Taken together they comprise 41 pages of text.

Despite the diversity of the *Oncidium* alliance, remarkably few books are available on the group. Growers will find *Orchid Species Culture* particularly welcome as they have been otherwise saddled in recent years with Zelenko's overpriced, yet utterly forgettable *Pictorial Encyclopedia of Oncidium*. While Königer's superb volumes on *Oncidium* (in the strict sense) are slowly being produced in Germany, the breadth of the alliance remains oddly underrepresented in the literature. The Baker's monumental contribution goes far in providing a solid foundation for future efforts. I recommend this latest *Orchid Species Culture* without hesitation.

Eric A. Christenson
Florida, USA

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**Flora of the Otway Plain and Ranges
Volume 1.**

Author: Enid Mayfield, BA, Dip T.

Size: 232 pp. 23cm x 17cm. Soft cover.

Published in 2006 by Linton Press,
Australia.

ISBN 0-9775712-0-3

Available from Linton Press, Geelong
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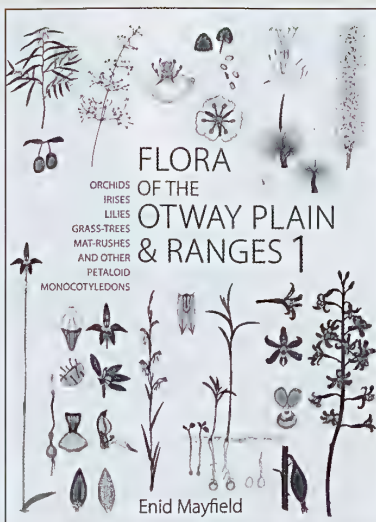
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copies) \$8.50.**

My first impression on opening this publication was that it contains a vast amount of information – far more than is normally found in a field guide. In actual fact, the *Flora of the Otway Plain and Ranges 1* is as much a flora as a field guide. This volume contains orchids (at over 130 species this is by far the largest family covered), irises, lilies, grass-trees, mat-rushes and other petaloid monocotyledons, many of them rare, threatened and endangered in the Otways.

Location maps inside the front cover pinpoint the area covered then, following the usual contents, acknowledgements and foreword, there is a Quick Plant Finder on page 1. This section lists the common name, scientific name and family name of each species, thus accommodating the amateur field tripper as well as the more scientifically inclined.

Moving on to page 6, the author has included a pictorial Key (What Flower is This?), a visual aid to identification by plant colour and family. This is followed by a section that shows the characteristics of plants within their respective families.

In the main body of the guide, each species has been allocated (in most cases) a full page and is easy to find because it has been listed alphabetically within its plant family. All the information about each



species is laid out in a clear, precise and logical manner. Information includes the scientific name, common name(s) and the distribution of the species. It also includes such information as descriptions of the plant's leaf, flower stem, flowers and an aid to recognition. There are crisp, clear colour illustrations of each plant and, where appropriate, dissections of the flower and/or enlargements of plant parts. The habitat, habit, status and flowering times of each species is presented at the bottom of the page, and also indicates whether the species is found on the Otway Plain and/or the Otway Ranges.

At the beginning of the section on orchids, one page explains the characteristics of orchids and two pages tell the reader how orchids survive. The latter two pages discuss pollination, cross-pollination, self-pollination, apomixis, attracting pollinators, deciduous orchids and tubers, pedicel elongation, fungi and seed, hemiparasitism and fire. Additional information for the orchids includes descriptions of the dorsal sepal, lateral sepals, petals, labellum, col-

umn and similar orchid species. In some instances the orchid's pollinator is also illustrated or discussed. Mayfield has included a double page spread of *Thelymitra* flowers and their columns, because columns are used as an aid to distinguish one similar species from another.

There is also an illustrated glossary, a bibliography and an index at the back of the book. During the research and preparation of this comprehensive field guide, Mayfield consulted taxonomic botanists at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, thus the nomenclature in this publication is that currently accepted by the RBG Melbourne.

The author is an Illustrative Researcher based at the Geelong Botanic Gardens and is an Honorary Associate of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. Mayfield's illustrations have appeared in many scientific publications and her work is held in the state botanical art collection. As is to be expected of an artist of this calibre, the illustrations in the *Flora of the Otway Plain and Ranges* are precise and visually superb. A charming touch is the inclusion of an attractive bookmark.

Although this book is too large and too heavy to fit into a pocket, it would fit comfortably into a backpack or the glove box in your car. The standard of this book is far higher than that of any other field guide I have seen to date, and I can highly recommend it to everyone with an interest in the wonderful flora of the Otways. *The Flora of the Otway Plain and Ranges* is an absolute must inclusion in the libraries of special interest groups, environmentalists, students, naturalists, landowners, botanical artists, tourists and others wishing to learn more about the flora of the area.

This book is the first of two volumes. I believe the second volume (on herbaceous and shrubby dicotyledons) is well underway and will be published later.

Helene Wild

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What if ? – a hybridising journey

By Bruce Wood

The day comes when you walk into your orchid house and there are these two beautiful flowers, at least in your mind, that are saying "pollinate us". It is a relatively simple process to place the pollen of one flower onto the sticky stigmatic cavity of the other flower. If you complete the following steps it may just lead to a very rewarding experience:-

Step 1 – Go make a nice cup of tea, take a scone, a notepad and pencil and find a quiet place to sit.

Step 2 – Remind yourself that the time period from pollination to the first flower can be between five and ten years depending on the genus.

Step 3 – Write down your aims; what do you hope to achieve by making this cross? Be very clear. Consider the following points: – Flower size, shape, number and colour. Upright, arching or pendulous inflorescence. The size of the bulbs and the foliage.

Step 4 – Are the two plants that you are thinking of hybridising compatible from a breeding point of view? For example, are they both in the *Cattleya* alliance (Laeliinae)? If not you are wasting your time.

Step 5 – Are the flowers fresh? The pollen of some flowers loses viability very early in its life.

Step 6 – Be aware that a large percentage of crosses made either fail to pollinate or germinate. So, if you

decide to do the cross, pollinate several flowers and make the reverse cross. If they all take you can remove them from the plants.

Step 7 – Decide how many flasks/plants you require. Most flasking services have a minimum of two flasks, which is between forty to fifty plants. Take into consideration that up to twenty percent of the plants simply drop dead between the flask and flowering size.

Step 8 – What do you know about the plants you wish to hybridise? What is their parentage? Consult Sanders or Wildcatt. Do they have any dominant or recessive traits? Have they previously been used as parents? Has any similar type cross been done, using at least one of the proposed parents; if so would the result have satisfied some or all of your aims? Have any of the progeny been awarded?

Step 9 – After careful consideration you have decided that the hybridisation of the two plants will hopefully satisfy your requirements; go do the washing up and if you still want to do the cross, take a toothpick and go to your orchid house.

May all your seedlings be champions.

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*Dockrillia
fuliginosa*

Colourful *Dockrillia* Hybrids

Text and photos by David P. Banks



Above: *Dockrillia* Tweetie Below: *Dockrillia* Tweetas



D*ockrillia* species and hybrids (colloquially known as “pencil orchids”) are gaining in popularity as low maintenance hardy orchids that can withstand significantly less water than most orchids and can be relied upon to put on an outstanding floral display annually, often coupled with a strong pleasant fragrance.

The Australian native species basically come in a colour range from white and cream (the most common) through various shades of yellow-green to gold and mushroom-brown. There have been numerous hybrid combinations made and registered over the years (often under *Dendrobium*) but the flowers tended to look fairly similar. Note there are no Australian *Dockrillia* species with red-purple to maroon-black flowers.

Over many years, selfings of a pencil orchid originally imported in 1975 by Phil Spence from the Kaisipi Swamp, Central Province, Papua New Guinea entered specialist collections under the name of “*Dendrobium teretifolium*” ‘Black Pam’. It was given this name because of the morphological similarity to the widespread Australian taxon, and to emphasise the purplish-black blooms. Basically, this was a species new to science that was not formally described until 1996 when it was described by Clements and Jones as *Dockrillia fuliginosa* in the ephemeral publication *Lasianthera*. It is a credit to



Above: *Dockrillia* Tweetas 'Frosted Lime' **Below:** *Dockrillia* Tweetas 'Krakatoa'

Phil that he propagated this species and made it available to orchid enthusiasts. It is an easily grown but somewhat slow-growing species, and it wasn't long before its unique colour gained the attention of hybridists. Unfortunately, many of these earlier hybrids were registered with the Royal Horticultural Society using the name of *Dendrobium teretifolium*, when the "true" species was not used. In the hybridists' defence, there was no alternative name at the time these hybrids were made and registered. This has led to confusion that continues today, with the OSNSW recently awarding a plant under the name of *Dockrillia* Oliver Jack (Jiggy {*schoenina* x *teretifolia*} x *striolata*). The award photos clearly confirm *Dockrillia fuliginosa* influence, and technically would make this plant ineligible for consideration for the Ira Butler trophy because it is not a purely Australian hybrid.

On that same 1975 Papua New Guinea expedition, Phil also found another new species of pencil orchid at Kaisipi Swamp. It was given the tag name of "*Dendrobium teretifolium*" 'Fiery Glow' and was also ultimately described in the same issue of *Lasianthera* as *Dockrillia convoluta*. This has proved to be very difficult to self-pollinate and subsequently this species is still very rare in cultivation as its increase on physical division of the original plants.

Phil made a hybrid between these two





Dockrillia (schoenina x fuliginosa) 'Dark Light'



Dockrillia Tweetas 'Rakata'



Dockrillia convoluta

Dockrillia Bronze Belle (plant: Jenny Walsh, NZ)





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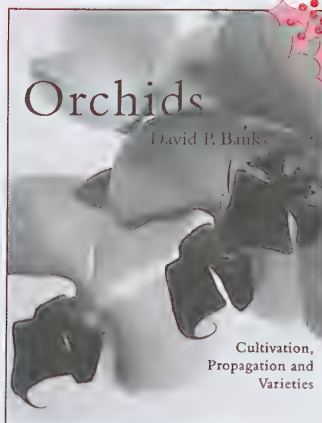
ORCHIDS

Cultivation, Propagation and Varieties
by David P. Banks

"Orchids" is an irresistible volume for all orchid lovers that offers practical advice to ensure no more flowerless stalks, no more browned and brittle leaves and no more dead and dying plants. Indeed, "Orchids" offers rare insights and comprehensive advice on how to keep your orchids vibrantly and beautifully healthy.

As detailed as it is diverse, "Orchids" explains precisely what your chosen species, hybrids or variant needs in order to flourish at your fingertips. With techniques and tips from professional orchid growers and experts, each natural habitat can be reproduced in your home to accommodate your favourite bloom. Fascinating and richly descriptive chapters take you through the history of orchid discovery, their geographical distribution and natural habitat, the awesome diversity of colour, shape and size, and all aspects of cultivation. A gloriously illustrated directory of species outlines the main characteristics of some 400 orchids. Illustrated with breathtaking images, "Orchids" is an excellent guide to growing orchids successfully.

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MORE FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

by Ross Macdonald

This is the sister volume to Cool Flowering Orchids throughout the Year. It is in the same format and style as the previous book, but also includes some genera that would require artificial heating in cooler climates. This volume covers a further 314 orchid species and hybrids with 344 colour plates. Both texts are highly recommended to all orchid fanciers; particularly newcomers who wish to see an array of delightful flowers that they could grow.

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COOL FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

by Ross Macdonald

Ross Macdonald is a highly respected orchid grower and photographer from the North Island of New Zealand. This volume is devoted to cool growing orchid genera, which are easy to cultivate in New Zealand and southern Australia. Growers in tropical areas should not be discouraged, as many of these orchids are indeed adaptable and will grow in a range of climates. Andy Easton has written the foreword. Ross has devoted the first few pages of the book to cultural hints, which are down to earth and give practical information on the basics of orchid cultivation.

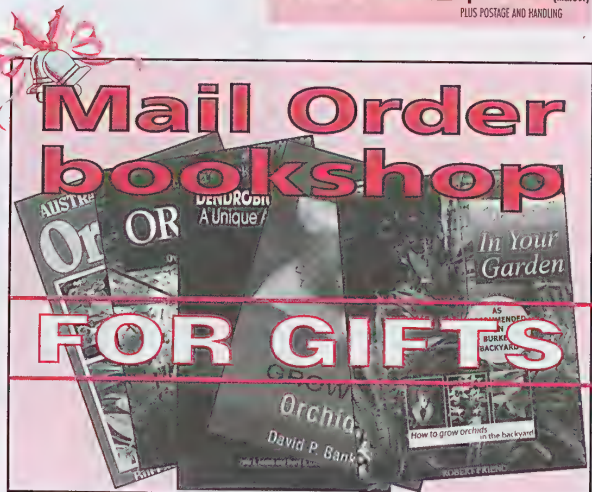
Basically this is a pictorial book with over 300 full colour photographs, covering a similar number of orchid species and hybrids. The quality of both the photographs and the colour reproduction is impressive. All of the orchids have been captured using available sunlight and there is no flash photography. There is a wide range of orchid genera covered with particular emphasis placed on cymbidiums, dendrobiums, laelias, masdevallias, the Odontoglossum alliance and Paphiopedilum.

The photographs are arranged in four chapters, referring on their main blooming season. The use of seasons ensures the text is also applicable to growers in the northern hemisphere.

This inexpensive book is exceptional value and importantly is written by someone who knows and grows these orchids. I thoroughly recommend this book to orchid growers, as it will be of great value to both novice and experienced enthusiasts.

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INTRODUCING CATTLEYAS

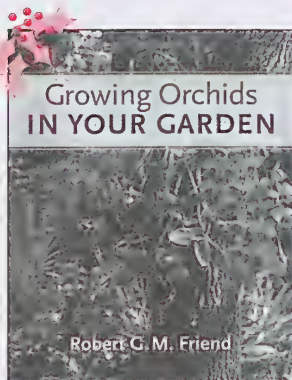
Noni J. Mammatt

Noni Mammatt's fascination with the Cattleya Alliance, their most beautiful blooms and extensive range of colour combinations, has prompted Noni to share the results of her own trials in successfully growing and flowering all types of this most beautiful genus under shade-house conditions in the city of Perth in Western Australia. She hopes that as a result of her writing some new growers, as well as the experienced growers of other orchid genera, may be encouraged to introduce the Cattleya Alliance into their collections.

24 pages, B&W.



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GROWING ORCHIDS IN YOUR GARDEN

by Robert Friend

Just about wherever you live in the world, you can grow orchids in your garden. In this exciting book, Robert Friend shows gardeners how to introduce orchids into the garden by attaching them to trees, fixing them to rocks and walls, or planting them directly into garden beds.

He has traveled the world from Florida to the cool forests of North America, to the tropics of the Pacific Rim and to his origins in Australasia, searching for new ideas and new ways to cultivate these striking plants.

The author details more than 500 orchid choices for every garden situation and provides practical cultivation information in thorough charts and tables.

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Walter T. Upton

Sarcocylus Orchids of Australia is the first book to cover all aspects of species of the genus Sarcocylus. Compact plants of great floral beauty with ease of culture, they are mostly cool to cold growing, requiring limited space, and for these reasons are quickly becoming the orchid of the future.

The book gives each individual species a separate entry, with information on its history, synonyms, distribution, habitat, cultivation and hybrids, along with a drawing showing the main parts of the plant and flower, plus a colour plate providing an easy means of identification.

Hybridising, including intergenerics, is dealt with in detail - most registered hybrids being accompanied by a colour plate. Other chapters include pollination, seed raising and cultural information for the home grower.

This is Walter T. Upton's third book and is a companion to his very popular and informative Dendrobium Orchids of Australia.

119 pages, colour and B&W.

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GROWING PHALAENOPSIS AT HOME

James Neal

This book is essential reading and reference for any person who grows, or is intending to grow, Phalaenopsis.

Jim, in a simple and easily understood style, explains and elaborates on light conditions, watering, temperatures, fertilisers, pests and diseases.

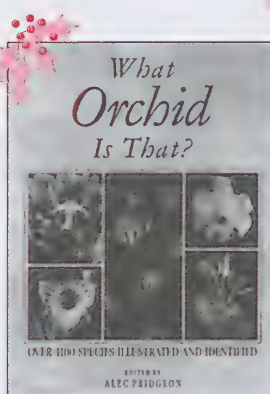
Explanations of the way Phalaenopsis are named and the implications of growing seedlings, illustrate some of the more difficult ideas for the layman to understand.

The colour photography illustrates beautifully the topics under discussion and the orchid names are supplied, where necessary, as a caption.

The illustrations drawn by Jim's son Jamie are pertinent and succinct and make the subject more easily understood.

56 pages, colour and B&W.

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WHAT ORCHID IS THAT?

Edited by Alec Pridgeon

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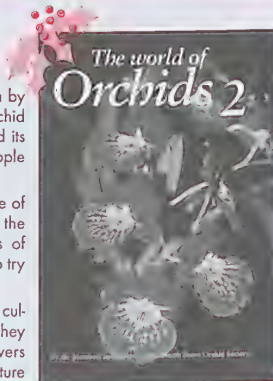
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Dockrillia (schoenina x fuliginosa)



Dockrillia Tweetas 'Lime Splice'



distinct species to create a popular hybrid that was registered as *Dockrillia* Tweetie. It's a hybrid that has a number of flushes of blooms throughout the year, and basically is a deep yellow to cream flower overlaid with dark maroon peppering and markings, often giving a two-tone effect. Sadly, to further confuse the issue, I have seen some nurseries selling seedlings, implying they are species, using the spliced cultivar name of 'Fiery Pam'. I am assuming they are simply selfings of the

hybrid *Dockrillia* Tweetie.

There have been a number of hybridists that have made the combination between *Dockrillia* Tweetie and *Dockrillia striolata*, which was finally registered with the unfortunate name of *Dockrillia* Tweetas. I believe the name Tweetas is too close to Tweetie and I can see a situation down the track then tags get broken, lost or fade and there is guesswork as to what the hybrid actually is. Despite that, this is a great hybrid that, due to the mixing of three

Dockrillia Tweetas 'Pinatubo'





Dockrillia hepatica



Dockrillia Tweetas 'Mustard'

species with different colours has produced a grex with a wide pallet of colours from green through mustard tones to brown-purples, often with contrasting labellums. It is fast growing with plants reaching specimen size quickly and whilst the main blooming is in late winter to early spring, odd flowers also appear throughout the year.

One of the most colourful of the hybrids I have seen is from the cross *Dockrillia* Bronze Belle (*fuliginosa* x Julie Skillicorn {*mortii* x *striolata*}. Other impressive (and to date) unregistered hybrids include *Dockrillia* (*schoenina* x *fuliginosa*), which is most likely the true parent of the "Oliver Jack" mentioned earlier, *Dockrillia* (*fuliginosa* x *dolichophylla*) as very large and

colourful blooms which should be outstanding as a larger plant and *Dockrillia* (Catherine {Stephen x *fuliginosa*} x *dolichophylla*). *Dockrillia* Stephen is *D. schoenina* x *D. striolata*.

Ironically, many of the hybrids credited with *Dockrillia striolata* as the parent have used the distinctive large-flowered Watagan Mountains "form" (with mushroom pinkish-brown blooms and a large ruffled white labellum) that was described as *Dockrillia banksii* in 2005.

This season we even had a "specialist" native orchid nursery benching plants of *D. banksii* (under the name of *D. striolata*), that had a purple flush to the labellum (another marker to *D. fuliginosa* influence).

It must be remembered that all of these *Dockrillia* hybrids with purple influence in them (initially from *Dockrillia fuliginosa*) are NOT pure Australian hybrids and are ineligible for the native classes at shows. Some show schedules have allowed for this, by having an Australasian class or simply a class devoted to *Dockrillia* hybrids. This later option appears to be the simplest and most sensible cause of action.

Another "new" and colourful species from Papua New Guinea, *Dockrillia hepatica* is slowly filtering into cultivation thanks to the efforts of Geoff Stocker. There have been selfings available, but I know of no hybrids using this heavily suffused blood reddish to maroon (liver) coloured species.

Cultivation

These are easily grown orchids that will grow and bloom in a wide range of climates. They will take temperatures from the frost level to extreme heat in summer.

Abridged Taxonomy of *Dockrillia* (Banks, 2006)

Old Name as <i>Dendrobium</i>	New Name as <i>Dockrillia</i>
<i>Dendrobium beckeri</i>	<i>Dockrillia schoenina</i>
<i>Dendrobium bowmanii</i>	<i>Dockrillia bowmanii</i>
<i>Dendrobium brevicaudum</i>	<i>Dockrillia brevicauda</i>
<i>Dendrobium calamiforme</i>	<i>Dockrillia calamiformis</i>
<i>Dendrobium calamiforme</i> (Cape York "yellow form")	<i>Dockrillia sulphurea</i>
<i>Dendrobium casuarinae</i>	<i>Dockrillia casuarinae</i>
<i>Dendrobium contextum</i>	<i>Dockrillia convoluta</i>
<i>Dendrobium cucumerinum</i>	<i>Dockrillia cucumerina</i>
<i>Dendrobium dolichophyllum</i>	<i>Dockrillia dolichophylla</i>
<i>Dendrobium fairfaxii</i>	<i>Dockrillia fairfaxii</i>
<i>Dendrobium fuliginosum</i>	<i>Dockrillia fuliginosa</i>
<i>Dendrobium linguiforme</i>	<i>Dockrillia linguiformis</i>
<i>Dendrobium linguiforme</i> var. <i>huntianum</i>	<i>Dockrillia linguiformis</i> var. <i>huntiana</i>
<i>Dendrobium linguiforme</i> var. <i>nugentii</i>	<i>Dockrillia nugentii</i>
<i>Dendrobium mortii</i>	<i>Dockrillia bowmanii</i>
<i>Dendrobium pugioniforme</i>	<i>Dockrillia pugioniformis</i>
<i>Dendrobium racemosum</i>	<i>Dockrillia racemosa</i>
<i>Dendrobium rigidum</i>	<i>Dockrillia rigida</i>
<i>Dendrobium schoeninum</i>	<i>Dockrillia schoenina</i>
<i>Dendrobium striolatum</i>	<i>Dockrillia striolata</i>
<i>Dendrobium striolatum</i> (Tasmanian "yellow form")	<i>Dockrillia striolata</i> subsp. <i>chrysantha</i>
<i>Dendrobium striolatum</i> ("Watagan form")	<i>Dockrillia banksii</i>
<i>Dendrobium tenuissimum</i>	<i>Dockrillia mortii</i>
<i>Dendrobium teretifolium</i>	<i>Dockrillia teretifolia</i>
<i>Dendrobium teretifolium</i> var. <i>aureum</i>	<i>Dockrillia dolichophylla</i>
<i>Dendrobium teretifolium</i> var. <i>fairfaxii</i>	<i>Dockrillia fairfaxii</i>
<i>Dendrobium teretifolium</i> var. <i>fasciculatum</i>	<i>Dockrillia calamiformis</i>
<i>Dendrobium "teretifolium" 'Black Pam'</i>	<i>Dockrillia fuliginosa</i>
<i>Dendrobium "teretifolium" 'Fiery Glow'</i>	<i>Dockrillia convoluta</i>
<i>Dendrobium wassellii</i>	<i>Dockrillia wassellii</i>



Dockrillia hepatica



Dockrillia (schoenina x fuliginosa)

I grow most of my seedlings and smaller plants in pots in a bark and gravel mix, and transfer them to slatted baskets, treefern pots or cork or treefern slabs as they mature. The ideal is to tie them onto large slabs of treefern, either soft (*Dicksonia*) or hard/black (*Cyathea*). That way they can stay there for life. It is worth noting that the New Guinea species have a finer root system to most of the Australian species, especially the *Dockrillia teretifolia* com-

plex, which is possibly a response to a wetter or more humid environment.

Keep an eye out for seedlings of this style of pencil orchid. They are somewhat slow growing as young seedlings but they really get a gallop on as they reach maturity. After they bloom for the first time they grow very quickly, with some crosses doubling in size annually. Tinonee Orchids near Taree often have a small group of flowering plants available at the various

springtime orchid shows and fairs, but these are always snapped up quickly, so it may pay to order ahead.

Apart from *Dockrillia* Bronze Belle (grown by Jenny Walsh of New Zealand), all plants grown and photographed by the author.

David P. Banks
Seven Hills, NSW

Email: davidpbanks@veritel.com.au

Dockrillia (Catherine x dolichophylla)



Dockrillia (fuliginosa x dolichophylla)



Cuitlauzina pendula

By Keith Ryan

This lovely Mexican species is sometimes called *Odontoglossum pendulum* or *Odontoglossum citrosium*, both however are now synonymous. The species was first described in 1824 as *Cuitlauzina pendula* pronounced (kweet-law-zee-nah) in honour of Aztec Governor and Horticulturist of IZTAPALPO. In 1874 it was transferred to *Odontoglossum* by James Bateman and latter still was named *Odontoglossum citrosium*.

Culture conditions for this species are cool and shady with good air movement, an open well draining potting medium, and a rest after the bulbs have matured. Watering during the growth period should be enough to keep the potting media moist at all times, and fertilizer should be given regularly and at quarter strength.

The name *Odontoglossum citrosium* referred to the lemon or citrus-like fragrance of the flowers which are pendulous in habit, perhaps because of the weight of the flowers. When in flower it is best to suspend the plant from the roof of the growing area to allow the scape to cascade down. Basket culture may be another means of container for this species.

Cuitlauzina pendula differs from true *Odontoglossums* in that it produces its inflorescence simultaneously with the new growth when only a couple of centimetres long, way before the pseudobulbs have formed, and at this time care should be taken to ensure that water does not cause the emerging spike to rot.

The flowers are sometimes white, more often with a flush of mauve/pink to the petals and sepals and yellow in the labellum. A couple of varieties have been described, being *punctatum* where the flowers are pale rose with the petals and sepals dotted with purple, and *roseum* has the blade of the labellum deep rose in colour.

Finally let me stress again that this orchid likes a rest after the bulbs have matured when water should be given sparingly and only to stop the bulbs from dehydration as previously mentioned. Only after the new growth and spike are growing well should water be increased. This beautiful orchid is quite rare in Australia so if you can locate a plant of it grow it along with your other cool growing plants. I feel sure you will be pleased with its future flowering.

The three photographs used to illustrate this species were taken by David Banks. ■

Keith Ryan

Bossley Park, NSW

Parramatta & District Orchid Society



Excellent shaped form (plant: Marni Turkel)



Typical colour form (plant: Dieter Weise)

Showing flowering habit (plant: Hills District Orchids)

Australian Natives

The native orchid flowering season continues but there is a change from mainly *Dendrocoryne* to *Sarcanthinae*. We now see crystalline white blooms of *Sarcophilus hartmannii*, red-splattered *S. fitzgeraldii* with the vanilla scent of *S. falcatus* filling the air. A number of other species also bloom at this time continuing to show the huge diversity of Australian natives.

Breeders have achieved some really breath-taking colour combinations with *Sarcanthinae* – deep blood red, mauve-blue, icy pastel green and gold among other hues. The colours have really been intensified in many crosses. Some of the markings and flower shapes are intriguing. The hybrids have proven the way to get the colours of the hard or impossible to maintain species into plants which are easier to grow. The influence of *S. hartmannii* means there are long racemes with plenty of lowers which are well displayed.

If hybrids aren't your thing, who can look at the crystalline-white blooms of a well grown *Sarcophilus hartmannii* and not want to grow one of their own? Well, many of these are easy orchids to grow if you understand their few basic needs. Understanding the natural habitat of the species is important because they come from a wide range of areas and some are very sensitive to growing conditions. *Sarcanthinae* are in active growth most of the year. This can be seen as green roots tips. Light applications of fertiliser can be continued all year. These orchids need to be protected from the cold as well as low humidity and over bright sunlight. Just as important as good humidity is air movement. Still conditions allow fungal spores to settle and the thick leaves are very susceptible to damage. However, air

movement lowers humidity so it is a balancing act to get things right. This is particularly important as we are threatened with yet another long, hot and dry summer this year with continuing water restrictions in many areas. Ponds and tubs of water in the bushhouse help as do foliage plants.

Watering plants to often leaches out nutrients and waterlogs pots. Misting the floor of the growing area during the day is a god way to keep humidity up, but not many growers will have the water to spare, or, if they do their conscience about the wastage should deter them. Try thick mulch that will stay damp during the day. Gravel is good if you are worried about bark mulch harbouring pests and breaking down to sludge, creating a shadier, protected area for your more sensitive plants is another option.

These plants are quite sensitive to frost and temperatures below freezing despite some species being subjected to extreme conditions in their natural habitat. They grow in protected niches and miss the extremes.

Some of the epiphytic *Sarcanthinae* grow better on a live host such as citrus trees. Be sure to check out the surrounds and don't kill the tree by tying the plant on with non-perishable material and ringbarking it! Water and fertiliser needs of these plants are the same as any others and may need special consideration to keep them moist. And don't use trees that shed their bark or leaves!

Sarcophilus fitzgeraldii is a plant that needs shaded, protected conditions. It occurs naturally beside watercourses, often on steep mountainsides, in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland. These areas are damp at all times and heavily shaded, but sunlight – typically morning – breaks through the canopy to spotlight the plants for at least a short time each day. There is quite a temperature range, just above freezing in winter to over 40°C in summer but the streams and the moss that covets the rocks they grow on, provide microclimates.

Sarcophilus hartmannii is easily grown as it comes from harsher locations than many might think. The readily accessible plants in the wild were collected long ago but those that remain perch just back from the edge of cliff tops. This species is best known from the volcanic structures of the rim of the Mt. Warning volcano. The plants can be subjected to blasts of summer heat and chilling winter winds but they cling to

crevices where there is protection and moisture. The roots may run for metres through the grass. These sights have perfect drainage and it is root rot that this species is most susceptible to.

Sarcophilus ceciliae has narrow leaves and its appearance suggests the harsher climate in which it is found. This is more an inland plant from open eucalypt forest where it grows on rocky outcrops. The temperature range is quite wide and severe at times. Again the root system needs good drainage.

Sarcophilus falcatus is an epiphyte of rainforest. Its roots run across the trunks and branches of moss covered trees from southern Queensland to Victoria. It comes from cool, damp and protected environments – very pleasant places to be in the heat of summer. It will not grow in pots. This makes it a more difficult subject to maintain with reduced water as mounted plants have higher water requirements. The challenge is for growers to find a structure that keep moist enough to grow the plant, but not so wet the roots are saturated and unable to get the air movement. Growing appropriate mosses with the plants should help. There are many other species of *Sarcanthinae* but many are sensitive epiphytes and are more difficult to cultivate. The *Sarcanthinae* species are susceptible to root rots if conditions in cultivation are not ideal. A plant might be growing strongly then suddenly drop its leaves and die. These orchids need really good drainage so most growers use coarse gravel in the mix. Shallow plastic or terracotta pots are used. The roots of many of these plants are a much a feature as the leaves (some species don't even have leaves). The roots like to run across the top of the media and invade the next pot on the bench. Mounted plants can have quite extensive root systems so

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CULTURAL NOTES

allow plenty of room for growth when mounting.

Along with the Sarcanthinae there will be a range of other native orchids in bloom now. Some of these are easy to grow and add variety to a collection as well as provide flowers at a quieter time.

Of the *Cymbidium* species, *C. madidum* is the easiest to grow. It will tolerate a well-drained cymbidium mix or a dendrobium mix with some fine material. A large shallow pot is ideal but it will need to be hung to leave room for the pendulous racemes. This species comes from moister areas than the others – typically rainforest on the eastern side of the ranges between north-eastern New South Wales and northern Queensland.

The *Phaius* species are swamp plants. They are quite tough and easy to grow needing moist media with plenty of humus.

In warm weather it is important to be sure your plants are getting water when they need it. Water first thing in the morning or in the cool of evening to give the plants time to absorb it before the heat of the day. Keeping the evaporation rate lower it is a more environmentally sensible thing to do, and many growers won't have a choice about the time or even day they water. Regularly check all misters are working if you are still using them and that plants haven't grown and stop water reaching ones underneath them. Fertiliser is needed now, as this is the major growth time.

Repotting is best done now. Don't overpot native orchids and take care not to snap off new growths that will be starting as they are very brittle. Disinfect any tools and your hands or gloves between plants to avoid spreading viruses and other diseases. (Gloves protect your hands from the bark in media that can give them the texture of super coarse

sandpaper!)

Fertilise, tidy up and repot and enjoy any blooms you may have.

Cattleyas

Cattleyas can now start to come out of their winter homes, such as heated glass houses. They will love the fresh air! When you move them into the shade house, watch the shading

Once moved give plants a good drench with a good organic or kelp based fertiliser. Give the plants three or four good drenches. Then you maybe able to go over to good quality fertiliser such as MERRI FERT. Use at half rate to start with.

When new roots start to show, you may repot if necessary. Use a good bark with a little coarse perlite. After repotting give plants a drench with AUXINONE® Three or four applications should help to start the roots off.

Check for scale – use ECO OIL®.

Check for brown rot – use AGRIFOS 600 or YATES ANTI-ROT®, Read directions very carefully as some rates have changed this year.

Cymbidiums

What a season! Some plants flowered early in Sydney, while others came very late. Some Sydney growers did not have a good season at all. Some of the respected cymbidium growers got through the hot summer period OK, which in turn meant a successful flowering season. As we all say – there is always next year!!

Repotting should now be in full swing. If you mixed your own compost it should now be ready. If not – there are a few good suppliers around that make a good product, here in Sydney ORCHID CARE SERVICES have a good mix and they

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also have treated bark. DEBCO also have a good bark which plants grow very well in. Additives can also be added to it. If you want large quantities of a potting media you may try A.N.L. or GRANGE POTTING MIXES here at Sackville (NEAR Windsor, west of Sydney). They will make any mix for you.

Don't forget, as the season finishes, cut off the old spikes as soon as possible so as the plant can come into active growth to develop those growths for next years spiking.

Plants that do not need dividing, repotting back onto the bench where they will live until next year. Top dress with a controlled release fertiliser such as OSMOCOTE®, NUTRACOTE® or APEX®. (3 to 4 month release).

Those that you have divided, drench with a rooting hormone such as AUXINONE®. This will help to get the plants on the move. After a few weeks you can resume your regular fertilising programme.

DO NOT OVER WATER AFTER REPOTTING. Keep JUST moist. Watch for two-spotted mites or scale. Spray if necessary with an appropriate insecticide such as ECO OIL®.

If you have any seed capsules hanging, watch out for dendrobium beetles. Use CARBARYL on the capsules to keep the beetle from eating the capsules. ■

Phalaenopsis

By the time you read these notes, spring should be well and truly with us. Phalaenopsis are now in full bloom. This year we have seen many coloured combinations on spots, blotches, stripes etc. yellows have still a long way to go as far as length of spike, number of blooms on spikes, size of blooms and richness of colour! There is no doubt we are slowly

getting there. Over the next few years we will see a big improvement in yellows.

Well, what should we be doing. I like to turn the heater off on the October long weekend (Sydney). Then the big task of repotting those plants that need repotting, and of course potting on those seedlings you bought last year. Remember, repotting every second year seems to be beneficial!

Watch what you pot your plants into. Many growers are now using Coco Peat combinations while others have had a few dramas. If you use any of the Coco peats make sure you wash the medium very thoroughly! This is very important as orchids do not like salt. I am running some tests at the moment and have found that the salt content was very high.

Bark plus coarse perlite or maybe styrene still seems to work OK. Make sure the bark has been treated for nitrogen draw down! After repotting fertilise with AQUASOL® at half rate with some SUPERTHRIVE® added at the recommended rate. Keep this up until the new leaves start to mature then change to a high potassium fertiliser or use MERRIFERT. Apply weekly.

Check for scale and mealy bug. Spray with ECO OIL® or NATRASOAP® mixed with SPRAYTECH OIL®. Watch for bacterial spot. Spray with HYSAN® if noticed. DO NOT OVER WATER, but keep humidity up to around 60% R.H. Watch shading as summer approaches. ■

Paphiopedilum

A little care is necessary during spring as the weather can be quite variable. We generally have nice warm days and cool nights – ideal conditions for paphiopedilums to begin their main growth cycle.

Repotting was covered fairly comprehensively in the notes for July/August,

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however a few points are worthy of repetition:

Paphiopedilums thrive on repotting, it should be done every year for best results, no matter how happy the plant appears or how good the mixture looks. You can only see the top of it.

Don't overpot. Use a pot which will comfortably hold the roots. 'Squat' pots (height about equal to diameter) are best and drainage must be adequate. The base of the plant should be just below the surface of the mixture.

'Wobbly' plants should be staked.

Don't use Osmocote. It is just great for most orchids but paphiopedilums will not grow a good root system when it is used.

Repotting can be continued throughout this period – in fact, right up until about mid December, or later if you have effective cooling.

Watering should be done as required. If the weather is hot and dry you may need to water every couple of days; if cool and cloudy, once a week may suffice. It is particularly important to water in the morning if you possibly can. The object is to keep the soil temperature up; you can't achieve this if you water late in the day.

Fertiliser should be given regularly, particularly toward the end of this period. It is not too much to water with about half strength fertiliser every second or third watering. I find it very convenient to use a 'Hyponex siphon mixer', which plugs in at the tap end of the hose and sucks the concentrated fertiliser out of a 20 litre bucket. These are cheap and foolproof but they won't work against a lot of back pressure; I use a 'Gardenia' water breaker, screwed well out, on the end of a 20 metre hose and have no trouble.

I have always used Aquasol, supplemented with extra iron, a bit of magnesium now and then and Nitrosol which, apart from its value as a fertiliser, I believe acts as a wetting agent. Whilst I never really measure anything, the proportions are probably about: two teaspoons of Aquasol, one teaspoon of Nitrosol, a pinch of Iron Chelate and a few pinches of Epsom Salts all dissolved in about 20 litres of water. This is pretty weak, but I use it frequently.

About the only pests which trouble paphs. are scale and mealy bug. These become active around early November and it is not a bad idea to spray the collection during this month as a preventive

measure. Malascale will clean these up fairly effectively. If you feel really heroic, Supracide is very effective. Whatever you use, take the appropriate precautions otherwise you may clean up the family dog, or even yourself.

Vandaceous

Watering:– Water daily. Keep the root system moist with additional misting if necessary.

Light:– Strap leaf vandas and ascocendas need 50 to 70% shade. Terete and semi-terete about 30%.

Fertiliser:– Fertilise weekly alternating over a four weekly period.

Wk.1. – Inorganic high nitrogen (Campbells B, Aqua feed or Aquasol).

Wk.2. – Foliar/Trace element (Wuxall Foliar).

Wk.3. – As for Wk.1.

Wk.4. – Organic (Fish Emulsion or Nitrosol).

Pest Control:– Fungicide every six weeks with Ridomil MZ WP, Daconil, Mancozeb or Wetttable Sulphur).

Use Diazanone, Malathion or Pyrethrum to control insect pests.

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Cymbidiums Australia

PRESENTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY INC.

Editor's Report

While it has long been a common theme and opinion expressed in the pages of this publication that there has never been a better time to be a *Cymbidium* grower, each new flowering season seems to prove it to be true all over again. So far, this season is shaping up to be another great one in terms of the number of new *Cymbidium* hybrids which are being flowered, or are appearing on club benches and at shows. Over the next few issues we will be featuring reports from major shows and the best new cymbidiums seen on state *Cymbidium* club benches and from a variety of nurseries and growers, beginning with this issue.

The Australian Cymbidium Club (NSW), brings us a report on their major show, held at Dural in mid-August. This, now annual event grew out of the last National Cymbidium Show to be staged in NSW and, while this year saw the event move to a new venue, it looks to have established itself as a major orchid event in the NSW show calendar. While the show is staged by a *Cymbidium* club and classes for cymbidiums make up the bulk of the show schedule, it was recognized that many club members also grow other orchid genera and so special classes were created to allow members to show their other orchids too, at their club's own show.

Noe Smith brings us her impressions of the Orchid Societies Council of Victoria's show at Collectors Corner. This show is a long-established highlight of the show season and draws huge

crowds due to the combination of one of Australia's largest shows and specialist orchid sales and vendors from all over the country. While the show is a multi-genera show, Noe has concentrated on the cymbidiums exhibited at this show.

The Cymbidium Club of South Australia presents us with a review of their *Cymbidium of the Year* Competition for 2005. At the end of each show and flowering season the members of the CCSA review the best cymbidiums seen all year, including seedlings, and make their selection of the best seen. This year, in what will hopefully become an annual feature, they are sharing their best cymbidiums of the year with the rest of us.

John Snedden from the Launceston Orchid Society in Tasmania brings us part one of a two part article on *Cymbidium* seedlings and how to grow them. Part one provides us with perhaps the clearest and most concise explanation of what a seedling is in orchid terms and how they are named, and what those names mean, that I think we have ever seen. Certainly essential information for all *Cymbidium* growers and invaluable knowledge for anyone new to cymbidiums and orchids in general. Part two of John's article will deal with deflasking and growing seedlings and what to expect in terms of outcomes from seedling crosses.

To round off this issue Rob Smith makes some observations about cymbidiums today, the variety available and how cymbidiums can provide something for (almost) everyone.

Good health and good growing . . . ■

Your editors

HOW TO JOIN A CYMBIDIUM CLUB IN YOUR STATE

CYMBIDIUM CLUB OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month (except December, January and February)

Meetings commence 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Lakemba Chapter Remembrance Hall, 220 Lakemba Street, Lakemba, Sydney, N.S.W.

For further details contact

Secretary, Peter Moore,

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Padstow, N.S.W. 2211

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CYMBIDIUM CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except December and January)

Auditorium open from 7.00 p.m. —

Beginners' Group commences 7.20 p.m.

Main Meeting commences 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Burnside Community Centre, 401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore, Adelaide, S.A.

For further details contact

Secretary, Jeanne Hall,

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Phone: (08) 8294 5562

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THE CYMBIDIUM ORCHID CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month (except January and February)

Benching of plants commences 7.15 p.m.

Popular Vote commences 7.50 p.m.

Main Meeting commences 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Belmont Sports & Recreation Club,

Abernethy Rd, Belmont, W.A.

For further details contact

Secretary, Dierdre Oliver,

35 Albert Road, Middle Swan, WA 6056

Phone: (08) 9274 2308

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THE CYMBIDIUM ORCHID SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

Meetings are held on 2nd Tuesday of each month (except January)

Popular Vote commences 7.50 p.m. —

Main Meeting commences 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Mt. Waverley Youth Centre,

Millers Crescent, Mt. Waverley, Victoria.

For further details contact

Secretary, Jenifer Robertson,

54 Worthing Road, Devon Meadows,

Victoria 3977

Phone: (03) 5998 2226

President, Peter Sunderland,

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Champion Large Flower and Champion Seedling. *Cym.* (Tracey Reddaway x Kelly's Winter). Owned and exhibited by Mal and Fay Ferguson.

Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW) Inc.

2006 Sydney Orchid Extravaganza

from 11th to 13th August

Text by Peter Moore. Photography by Geoff Le Marne.

Well it is finally over for this year, and what a great show it was! The members of the Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW) Inc should be congratulated. The show went off without a hitch and the feeling amongst the vendors and the club members was electric. This year we changed the venue from the Sunnybrook Hotel complex at Warwick Farm to the Dural Recreation Centre at Kenthurst. The venue was larger than last year's which gave the general public more room to move. In previous years we have had all floor displays but this year it was decided to bench all orchids and only have one area where members could put on a small table top display. We continued with the concept of bloom classes and this section continues to grow attracting a lot of interest. I believe this type of set up worked well in this venue and will set the stage for future years. Setting up the venue on Wednesday was much easier than in previous years too. On the Thursday the orchids started to arrive and the venue soon filled

with prize winning plants and the vendors were bringing them by the truck load, plants in flower and mericlones of other previous show winners. Soon after the judging started and not too long after that was completed, the prize cards and ribbons were placed with the plants. Now we were ready for the opening day.

The general public started filing through the doors on Friday morning and were still coming in as we were pulling the show apart on Sunday evening. The Mayor of the Baulkham Hills Council, Sonya Phillips, was in attendance and officially opened the show. This year the committee and the club members decided to open the show bench tables to all genera and we included classes for *Phalaenopsis*, *Cattleya*, *Paphiopedilum* and other general orchid classes. This then brought to the venue the added attraction of all the major genera and the overall effect was fascinating. The core of the show was still the cymbidiums and most of them were eye catching. With all the new crosses that

are currently being made, every year there is always a new surprise that walks through the door that has that wow factor. This years **Champion Large Flower and Champion Seedling** was *Cym.* (Tracey Reddaway x Kelly's Winter) which was grown by Mal and Fay Ferguson. It is a beautiful yellow with a bright red lip with even spacing between the flowers. The **Champion Small Standard** was *Cym.* Coco Jim 'Starquest' and perfectly grown by Dr G Le Marne. This naturally perfectly shaped pink has won nearly all shows that it is entered into. It is a brilliant orchid and should go on to win many more exhibitions. The **Champion Intermediate** was *Cym.* Street Hawk 'Miniworld' also grown by Mal and Fay Ferguson. This intermediate was well grown and was the most pretty pink orchid at the show. Its red labellum and great shape finished this plant off and it was a well deserved winner. The potential for this plant is great and in the hands of the Ferguson's it will be an intermediate to set your standards



Champion Small Standard Flower. *Cym. Coco Jim 'Starquest'*. Owned and exhibited by Geoff Le Marne.



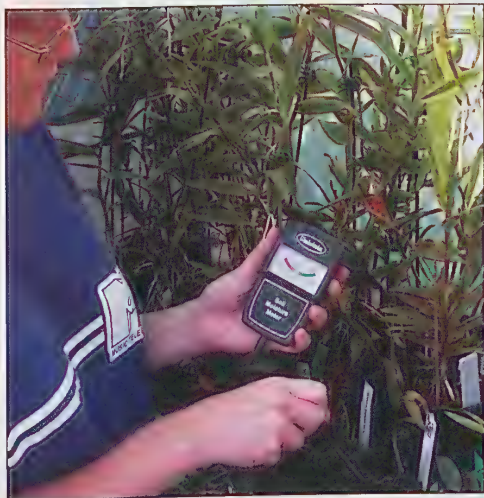
Champion Miniature. *Cym. Sarah Jean 'Lilac Queen'*. Owned and exhibited by Rob Wells.

to for some time yet. The **Champion Miniature** was *Cym. Sarah Jean 'Lilac Queen'* grown by Robert Wells. This is yet another flowering machine from the Sarah Jean stables and has multi-coloured petals with a lilac/lavender splash on the labellum. I am sure we will see this grex for many years to come. It probably seems bizarre that at a show hosted and presented by a single genera club (being cymbidiums) that a *Cattleya* could win. The **Grand Champion**

Of Show was *Blc. Triumphal Coronation 'Seto'* grown by J and S Atwal. There have been some rumbles about the fact that we opened the show to other classes but let's put our cards on the table and admit that most orchid growers have other genera in their collections besides cymbidiums so why not show them whenever possible!! Whilst we are being honest, and I am not a qualified judge, I do have to admit that the *Cattleya* was, in my opinion, a worthy

champion. The flower was clean, the petals and segments were perfectly placed and it carried two racemes with two flowers on each, which were in perfect alignment. The colour of soft mauve with a yellow centre was beautiful and every time I walked near that orchid on the weekend someone was oohing and ahing.

It was a great display and credit must go to all growers for their outstanding efforts. Considering the dreadful weather conditions



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earlier this year causing leaf burn, aborted spikes and damaged flowers there were still many great orchids on display and this is only due to the great skill of our club members.

For the first time we solicited the services of the Dural Round Corner Bush Fire Brigade to come along and set up BBQ facilities. They had a great time and all proceeds went to purchase new fire fighting equipment. The club members and all visitors feasted on bacon and egg sandwiches for brekkie and sausage and onion sandwiches for lunch. The atmosphere was great and they will be an added feature to all ongoing events. The host venue also supplied light refreshments for those who did not feel like a big meal. Many thanks to

both teams for their efforts in providing us with sustenance.

As with all these events, many clubs have a raffle. This year we decided to donate all proceeds to the Children's Hospital at Westmead. This was a major success with electrical goods being donated by The Good Guys at Castle Hill and an accommodation package being donated from Quest Apartments at Castle Hill. Our sincere thanks for their generosity as, without their support, it would have been a lot harder to raise the proceeds for the Hospital.

And finally many thanks to our vendors for their participation. I sincerely appreciate their efforts in coming to our show and look forward to sharing this venue with them for

many years as we grow to be the premier annual orchid event in the Sydney region.

Lastly to our club members, it is here that a tear will well in the corner of my eyes as I personally thank all those who not only gave up their time but also showed their plants. It was gratifying to see many of our members there each day assisting where necessary by selling plants, helping the public carry their purchases to their cars, and generally having a great time. A special thanks to S Tay for his generosity, and to Keith and Faye Harris who not only stayed in Dural for four days but did many hundreds of hours behind the scenes long before the show date. It is people like them who work tirelessly that make these events a success. Thank You. And to my sister Michelle who again along with her friends Jenny and Andrew gave up three days of their lives to assist me. Thank You.

Next year we will host the 2007 National Cymbidium Show and it would appear that this venue lends itself to type of event. This year the 2006 Sydney Orchid Extravaganza went off smoothly and we guarantee that the 2007 event will be even better. ■

Peter Moore

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| B. Cym. Coral 'Twist n Turn' x Logfire Peach Glow - Orange-striped | H. Cym. Jason Deans 'Millenium Bug' x Red Beauty 'Netty' 4N - Pink/Spotted Red |
| C. Cym. Crater 'Molten Lava' x Robin 'Little John' - Orange/Dark Lip | I. Cym. Jason Deans 'Pink Bloches' x Pink Champagne 'Featherhill' 4N - Pink Spotted |
| D. Cym. Darch Annabella 'Green Meadows' x Cleo's Melody 'Freakout' - Green Perioric | J. Cym. Kirby Lesh 'Netty' x James Tova 'Blood n' Bone' - Red Spotted |
| E. Cym. Fay Devereil 'Julie' x Pebbles 'Cherry Delight' - Spotted Pink | K. Cym. Pebbles 'Cherry Delight' x Red Beauty 'Netty' 4N - Pink Spotted |
| F. Cym. Forrest Place 'Queen's Jewel' AD/ACS x Marilyn Sharpe 'Star Bright' AD/ACS - White Spotted | L. Cym. Pink Champagne 'Featherhill' x John Wooden 'New Era' HCC/ACS - Pink Spotted |
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Cymbidium Seedlings

and how to grow them – Part 1

Text by Dr John Snedden

Where do cymbidium seedlings come from?

All orchids have three names. There is the genus name (plant name), i.e. *Cymbidium*. Then there is the gex name (family name), i.e. *Cymbidium One Tree Hill*. Then there is the third name the varietal name (the variety name), i.e. *Cymbidium One Tree Hill 'Beenak'*.

The varietal name always appears in 'inverted commas'. Therefore when you read the name *Cymbidium One Tree Hill 'Beenak'* you know that what you are looking a *Cymbidium* orchid, it is from the One Tree Hill family and that within that family it is called 'Beenak'.

We human beings use this same system to classify ourselves also. For example I (the writer) am classified as a Human Being, I am from the Snedden family, but which Snedden? There are many of them. I

am John Snedden, that is who I am and where I fit within the Snedden family. Now why do I have the 'varietal' name 'John'? It is to distinguish me from all the other Sneddens. Who are those other Snedden children? Who are their parents – what is their parentage? Well, I (the writer) am the progeny of Bob Snedden and Nola Johnstone. They had three children (I am one of them) and they all took the family name Snedden even though they were half Snedden and half Johnstone. I was given the name John to distinguish me from the other two Sneddens in that family. Therefore, in orchid terms, I am Human + Snedden + 'John', (like *Cymbidium* + One Tree Hill + 'Beenak'). Each of my three names tell me and others around me who I am, where I come from, and where I fit in with those around me.

Now let's apply this to orchids and to our

Cymbidium One Tree Hill 'Beenak'. When two orchids 'marry' (or are bred or hybridized) they produce children or progeny. So someone at sometime hybridized an orchid from the *Cymbidium* Coraki family with an orchid from the *Cymbidium* Dolly family (in this case Andrew Easton). Because they liked the results (the children) they registered the crossing – they created a new member of the *Cymbidium* family, and they called it the *One Tree Hill* family or gex. This Mr. Coraki and Mrs. Dolly produced many progeny many One Tree Hills, in addition to One Tree Hill 'Beenak' there was One Tree Hill 'Doris', and One Tree Hill 'Solstice Gold' and One tree Hill 'Golden Ball' and One Tree Hill 'John's Quest' – all these were children – progeny of the same two parents: Mr. Coraki and Mrs. Dolly. (Therefore if you see a plant label with Coraki X Dolly writ-

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ten on it, this means that the plant is the child/progeny of Coraki and Dolly, all progeny now known as the One Tree Hill family or children.

Now, in the orchid world, if any of the many orchids in the Coraki grex (family) are hybridized with any of the many orchids in the Dolly grex (family) then all the progeny MUST be named One Tree Hill. Even if some one at the other side of the world makes a crossing years after the first crossing was made, the progeny still must be called One Tree Hill. This is because the original hybridizer registered the crossing (marriage) of *Cym.* Coraki with *Cym.* Dolly with the Royal Horticultural Society in the UK. (The Royal Horticultural Society manages the register of orchid hybrids for the world).

To sum up – All formally registered *Cymbidium* crossings have three names: A genus name, a grex name and a varietal name. They all have two known parents. All progeny of these two parents have the same grex or family name (e.g. One Tree Hill). The varietal name distinguishes between the 'children of the marriage' – the progeny of the two parent plants.

Selecting and buying cymbidium seedlings.

All orchid nurseries, particularly *Cymbidium* nurseries, will offer for sale two kinds of cymbidium plants: mericlones and seedlings. Let's look at mericlones. Remember what I said about *Cymbidium* seedlings? We referred to a *Cymbidium* named *Cymbidium* One Tree Hill 'Beenak'. We noted that this orchid was the child/progeny of *Cym.* Coraki and *Cym.* Dolly. Now because *Cymbidium* One Tree Hill 'Beenak' proved to be very appealing, the owners had the plant mericloned or cloned (a common practice in the orchid industry). Cloning produces hundreds of plantlets identical to the orig-

inal plant, in this case *Cymbidium* One Tree Hill 'Beenak'. These mericlones are sold as flasks (many small plants in a flask/bottle), or as single lead or small plants, or as matured well developed plants.

Now back to seedlings. To the home gardener, the word seedling or seedlings refers to small plants grown from the seed of a plant pollinated by or with itself. When planted in the garden these plants will be the same as the plants from where the seed was taken. In the orchid industry, the word seeding or seedlings has a slightly different meaning. It means plants grown from seed but, in nearly all cases, the seed is from a plant that has been pollinated with a plant other than itself – to refer back to our example, *Cym.* Coraki was crossed not with itself but with *Cym.* Dolly. This means that the progeny will not be identical to the 'mother' plant and will not be identical to the 'father' plant. They will be different from both parents yet will contain characteristics of both the parents. This means also that all the progeny/children, will be different from each other as well, yet they all will contain characteristics of the both parents, and therefore will also have characteristics similar to each other.

If you look at the labels on *Cymbidium* seedling plants or at the names of *Cymbidium* seedlings offered for sale in orchid catalogues, you will notice that the name will be written like this for example: *Cym.* (Tango 'Velvet Sheen' x Uncle Everett '105'). This is the name of the two parents. Having two parent names on the one plant or plants implies that this plant/s is a crossing that has not been registered, and therefore does not yet have a grex name (family name). Crossings that have already been registered will have a grex name, for example *Cym.* Ruby Pendant. *Cym.* Ruby Pendant is a crossing between *Cym.* Sarah Jean and *Cym.*

Ruby Eyes. If a grex name (family name) like Ruby Pendant is written on a label or appears in a catalogue, this means that the plant/s offered for sale does not yet have a varietal name. So this means that all the *Cym.* Ruby Pendant plants you see for sale all will be different from each other simply because they are all children from the Ruby Pendant family – children/progeny waiting to be named (given a varietal/variety name) by the person who buys them.

Therefore we can conclude that whether

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a crossing has been registered or not (or not yet), there is a common factor that dominates all crossings. That is, that the outcome (result) is not accurately known. However, because the characteristics of the both parents are known, predictions and projections and expectations about what the progeny (children) could look like can be made, but they are only estimations. Ultimately you will just have to wait and see what you have when the plant flowers.

To sum up – Some first flowering seedlings might be disappointing, but some might be very exciting. People who buy and grow *Cymbidium* seedling are optimists. However some assurances can be made. Reasonably reliable predictions about flower size can be made. (If both parents are standards, then the progeny will be standard.) Colour predictions can be made also as long as the parameters are wide. Therefore catalogues will state that from a particular crossing you can expect yellows to greens, or pinks to reds, whites to pinks, whites to yellows, etcetera. We can then buy seedlings with an approximate expectation of the results/outcome. ■

Dr John Snedden

Email: snedden2@bigpond.net.au

John Welsh Receives Major Orchid Award

Stawell Orchid Society member John Welsh received a surprise at the Victorian Country Orchid Clubs Challenge dinner when he was presented with a major award. John was presented with the OSCOV Distinguished Service Award by OSCOV President Bill Miles.

This is only the fifth award presented by the members of OSCOV Inc (Orchid Societies Council of Victoria) and the first given to a member who is not on the executive panel.

President Bill awarded John for his long term commitment to his home club, Stawell Orchid Society, his support in the foundation of St Arnaud and District Orchid Club and his work with the Victorian Country Orchid Clubs Challenge.

Bill also said that John is an avid *Cymbidium* orchid grower winning many champions and awards with them.

"In recent years he has developed an interest in paphiopedilums and other genera which he grows with the same expertise and rewards," he said.

"In 1991 he was a foundation member of the Stawell Orchid Society and was president for 11 years, during which time he was a driving force in its formation and success.

"John was also the one who initiated the formation of St Arnaud and District Orchid Society which is now going along in leaps and bounds."

President Bill said John was the person who came up with the idea for the Victorian Country Orchid Clubs Challenge.

"With his determination, he kept pushing the issue and the Victorian Country Orchid Clubs Challenge was formed and held its first event at Stawell in 2000 and has gone from strength to strength to what we have today," he said.

"John is not only a talented orchid grower, but is well respected by all in the orchid community and beyond. He freely gives his advice, expertise and help to all.

"In closing, all those who know John have had their lives enriched and I am proud to call him a friend."

A surprised and overwhelmed John Welsh thanked President Bill and everyone involved for the honour bestowed on him and said in orchid growing, as in life, you get back what you put in. ■

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S453 Khan Flame 'April' x Wyong Rouge 'Mulberry' – Intense, shapely mid to late season reds with a percentage of yellow centered lips
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 S464 Sylvan Star 'Tia' x President Gorbachev 'Diplomat' – Early to mid-season pinks with stunning bluish yellow centered lips.
 S465 Sylvan Star 'Tia' x Wyong Rouge 'Mulberry' – A back cross with 'Tia' hoping to intensify bluish yellow centered lips, later in the season
 S468 Yowie Rose 'Cabernet' x President Gorbachev 'Diplomat' – Mid to late season reds and pinks with adouble dose of Terama in the background
 S469 Yowie Rose 'Cabernet' x Surman's Rose 'Pamela Margaret' – Mid to late season pinks and reds with a show bench percentage
 S466 Sylvan Star 'Tia' x Khan Flame 'Baroness' – Early to mid-season reduced foliage, good spike arrangement with stunning lips.
 S4123 Joan's Charisma 'Vanily' x Star Paradise 'Enticing' – Mid to late season multiple spiking whites with straight spikes
 S4124 Joan's Charisma 'Vanily' x Poetic Winter 'Gaiety' – Shapely whites with a percentage of green for the mid to late season
 S4138 Khan Flame 'Sheena' HCC/AOC x Fair Wall 'Dural' – Dark pink/orange/sunset shades with good shape and productivity in the mid-season
 S4152 Pharaoh's Gold 'John's Delight' x Red Beauty 'Bronze Delight' – Shapely mid to late season oranges, yellows and sunset shades
 S4165 (Lancashire Khan x Elegant Valerie) 'Tiger Eyes' x Pontac 'Rozel' AM/RHS – Tiger Eyes is a bright pink with a totally red lip. Rozel has shape, excellent spike arrangement.
 S4200 Winter Showers 'Marilyn' x Daintree 'Kiku' – High shape greens with a percentage of high flower counts in the mid to late season
 S4202 Daintree 'Kiku' x Poetic Winter 'Gaiety' – Mid to late season greens with a different genetic mix
 S4203 Daintree 'Kiku' x Royal Fare 'No5' – Productive high shape greens for the mid-season
 S4171 Culpaulin 'Snowflake' x Joan's Charisma 'Vanily' – Triploid Cross – Prolific, high flower count spikes for the late season. Cut flower and pot plant.

Stawell Orchid Society Inc. ORCHID FAIR, SEMINAR & SUMMER SHOW

NOVEMBER 12th-13th 2006

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Saturday 9.00am-5.00pm Sunday 9.00am-3.30pm

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A Saturday night dinner will be held in the Tabaret Function Centre

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SHOWDATES

DATE	TIME	SEASON	ORCHID SOCIETY	SHOW ADDRESS
New South Wales				
7 October	9.00am-2.00pm	Winter	Southern Riverina OS Spring Show	Anglican Church Hall Princes Highway, Milton
7 October	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Albury Wodonga District OS	Mirambeena Centre
8 October	9.00am-4.00pm		Aust. Inland Championship Show	19 Martha Mews, Lavington
10-11 October	Club Hours	Spring	Macleay Valley OS Late Spring Show	Macleay RSL Club Macleay
18-21 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Newcastle OS Late Spring Show	Edgeworth Shopping Centre Main Road, Edgeworth
19-22 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Western Suburbs OS Spring Show	Rockdale Plaza No 1 Rockdale Plaza Drive, Rockdale
26 October	8.00am-9.00pm	Spring	Northern Rivers Orchid Species Society Inc.	Lismore Shopping Square Cnr. Uralba & Diadem Streets, Lismore
27 October	8.00am-6.00pm			
28 October	8.00am-1.00pm			
3 November	9.00am-5.00pm	Summer	Sapphire Coast OS	Twyford Hall
4 November	9.00am-3.00pm		Sarcochilus & Aust Native	Merimbula
Queensland				
8 October	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Bribie Island OS	Indoor Bowls Club Hall
9 October	9.00am-2.30pm		October Spring Show	First Avenue, Bribie Island
12-13 October	8.30am-9.00pm	Spring	Pine Rivers OS	Aspley Hyper-Market
14 October	8.30am-3.30pm		Winter Show	Gympie Road, Aspley
12-14 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Mackay & District OS Spring Show	Mount Pleasant Greenfields Shopping Centre
13-14 October	9.30am-5.00pm	Spring	Tweed District OS	Club Banora
15 October	9.30am-3.00pm		Club Banora Orchid Show	Leisure Drive, Banora Point
14 October	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Beaudesert Districts OS	Drynam Pavilion, Beaudesert Showground
15 October	9.00am-3.00pm		Spring Show	Albert Street, Beaudesert
Victoria				
30 Sep-7 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Mornington Pen. OS	Gateway Shopping Complex, Langwarrin
6 October	1.00pm-5.00pm	Spring	Bendigo Orchid Club	YMCA Leisure Centre
7 October	10.00am-5.00pm		Spring Show	Kangaroo Flat
8 October	10.00am-4.00pm			
7 October	9.00am-4.30pm	Winter	Warrigal OS	St Sava Community Centre
8 October	9.00am-4.00pm		Winter Show	212 Diamond Creek Road, Greensborough
7 October	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Melbourne Eastern OS	East Burwood Uniting Church Hall
8 October	Noon-4.30pm		'World of Orchids'	Cnr Burwood Highway and Blackburn Road (opp K-Mart)
14 October	11.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Colac OC	Colac High School, Assembly Hall,
15 October	10.30am-4.00pm			Princes Highway, Colac West
20 October	2.00pm-5.00pm	Spring	Ballarat OS	SMB Horticultural Centre,
21 October	10.00am-5.00pm			cnr. Gillies and Gregory Streets, Ballarat
22 October	10.00am-4.00pm			
21 October	10.00am	Spring	Orchid SPECIES NSW Annual Show & Auction	Community of Christ Neighbourhood Centre 10-14 Taylor Street, West Pennant Hills
21 October	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Yarra Valley OS	Seville Public Hall
22 October	10.00am-4.00pm		Spring Orchid Show	Warburton Highway, Seville
21-22 October	9.30am-4.00pm	Spring	Yarra Valley OS	B. & T. Ferns, 30 Wiseman Road, Silvan, Silvan South
21 October	9.30am-4.30pm	Spring	Cobden & District OS	Civic Hall
22 October	9.30am-4.00pm			Victoria Street, Cobden
27-28 October	10.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Ararat OC	Town Hall, cnr. Vincent and Barkly Streets, Ararat
29 October	10.00am-4.00pm			
4-5 November	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Australasian Native OS (Geelong) Spring & Sarcochilus Show	The Masonic Centre Regent Street, Belmont, Geelong
4-5 November	TBA	Spring	Mornington Pen. OS	Brotherhood of St. Lawrence, High Street, Frankston
10 November	9.00am-5.00pm	Summer	Stawell OS	Trackside Taberet
11 November	9.00am-3.00pm		Summer Show & Fair	Patrick Street, Stawell
11-12 November	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Maribyrnong OS - Sarcochilus Festival of Victoria - open show	Maribyrnong Community Centre Randall Street, Maribyrnong
11-12 November	9.30am-4.00pm	Spring	Yarra Valley OS Sarcochilus & Orchid Spectacular	B&T Ferns & Orchids, 30 Wiseman Road, Silvan
Tasmania				
6-8 October	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Launceston OS - Spring Show	The Silverdome, Prospect, Launceston
13 October	2.00am-5.30pm	Spring	Burnie OS	Braddon Hall
14 October	9.00am-5.00pm		Spring Show	Burnie Civic Centre
15 October	9.00am-4.00pm			
5 November	9.00am-3.30pm	Spring	Devonport OS - Sarcochilus Show	Devonport Showground Gunn Street entrance
New Zealand				
7 October	10.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Canterbury OS	Horticultural Centre
8 October	9.00am-4.30pm			Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch
14-15 October	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Wanganui OS "Orchids for Everyone"	Wanganui Memorial Hall Queens Park, Wanganui
28 October	10.00am-4.00pm	SARC Show	Hawkes Bay	Taradale Town Hall, Taradale



Terry Poultons vivid yellow standard, *Cym.* (Kelly's Winter x Tracey Reddaway) 'Golden Tee Pee'.

OSCOV/Collectors Corner Orchid Show

Cymbidiums at the Show

Text and photography by Noe Smith

The Orchid Societies Council of Victoria annual show staged at and sponsored by Collectors Corner, Springvale Rd. Keysborough, Victoria, has established itself as a major feature in

the Australian orchid calendar and deservedly so given the sheer size of the show and the overall high quality of the orchids exhibited, and the displays staged. The 2006 show opened to the public over

the 18th 19th and 20th of August maintained the event's reputation with plenty of outstanding orchids from a variety of genera on display. Of course our main interest in this report is the cymbidiums featured



Cym. Memoria Dean Roesler 'Kalbeeba' shown by Phil Grech.



Cym. (Bullbarrow x Janis Lin). One of several new seedlings from this interesting crossing.



Cym. (Red Beauty x Yowie Rose) an attractive seedling featured in the Kimberley Orchids display.



Cym. Without Peer 'Soft Touch', again from Kimberley Orchids.

and, this year, cymbidium growers did not disappoint with plenty of well-cultured and beautifully presented plants on display. In fact it was something of a red letter year for cymbidiums at the OSCOV/Collectors Corner show with not only Champion Orchid of Show being won by a *Cymbidium*, but also Reserve Champion and Champion Seedling going

to cymbidiums among a number of other major class ribbons.

Rob and I headed off to Collectors Corner just after lunch on Friday the 18th hoping to enjoy the show, take pictures of the orchids, and catch up with the NSW Cymbidium Club members who were visiting the show as part of their coach tour of Victoria and several nurseries. As usual

there were huge crowds at the Collectors Corner complex as the show invited interstate and Victorian sellers and, with Paradisia Nursery's own selected stock, combined to bring orchid lovers out in their thousands over the three day event. Despite the crowds, the first people we ran into were our own OSCOV and COSV Registrar – Ern Kettle, ACS President –



Brian Forsyth displayed this perky little mini *Cym.* Harvest Queen 'Little Imp'



Cym. Black Robin 'Freckled Fancy'. I don't know who showed this plant but I like it! It may not have show shape but the spots and striking lip are most attractive.



Cym. Memoria Dean Roesler 'Kalbeeba', Champion Orchid in Show.



Cym. One Tree Hill 'Beenak'. Paul Latina.

Peter Moore and ACS Delegate – Peter Gibson (and his wife, Rose), all three are hard working members for their own state *Cymbidium* club, the Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW). The people you meet and the friends you make while growing orchids are some of the best people you could ever wish to know.

This year's show was staged in a new

and improved marquee with much better light and more flexible use of available space than in previous years. Displays ran around three walls of the marquee with about ten more featured as island displays in the central section. Both the Champion and Reserve Champion were featured in the same display, and Gippsland growers Phil Grech and Paul Latina (both accom-

plished show growers) presented the winners with Phil showing the Champion, *Cym. Memoria Dean Roesler 'Kalbeeba'* and Paul showing the Reserve Champion, *Cym. One Tree Hill 'Beenak'*. *Cym. Memoria Dean Roesler 'Kalbeeba'* (Valley Splash x Latrobe) was a worthy winner and was presented in peak condition despite it having been shown the week



Cym. Bakaro 'Etna'



Cym. Ularu 'Sunglow' a shapely and attractive orange standard shown by Phil Grech.



Paul Latina's *Cym.* Peppers Fire 'Fiesta'.

before (and where it had been awarded an HCC/OSCOV). 'Kalbeeba' should prove to be a fine show bench orchid over future years as it showed good flower form and size with a respectable flower count on what was only a plant of moderate size, first shown as a seedling a couple of sea-

sons ago. Paul Latina's plant of *Cym.* One Tree Hill 'Beenak' was typically well grown and presented. Paul has built a reputation for the quality of his *Cymbidium* culture and presentation and is something of a specialist with specimen-sized plants. This flowering was no exception and came



An early flowering of *Cym.* Gladys Whitesell 'The Charmer'

up to his usual standards.

The standard of cymbidiums throughout the whole show was high, with some outstanding plants featured across many of the multi-genera club displays as well as those of the *Cymbidium* specialists such as the Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria and Kimberley Orchids. The COSV display featured the Champion Seedling in Show, grown by Terry Poulton, a fine white large flower type of Bryants Orchids breeding, *Cym.* (Joan's Charisma x Pristine Spring). Terry also benched an attractive yellow, *Cym.* (Kelly's Winter x Tracey Reddaway) 'Golden Tee Pee'. Kimberley Orchids staged a large display which featured many of their well-known show plants and a few new ones. *Cym.* (Red Beauty x Yowie Rose) registered as Rembrandt Rose, is an eye catching spotted pink typical of a fair number of this crossing. Among the intermediates and miniatures displayed, fine examples of *Cym.* Without Peer 'Soft Touch', *Cym.* Careless Heart 'Cutie Pie' and *Cym.* Touch of Class 'Flamingo' all caught the eye. Collectors Corner featured some interesting seedlings in their own display, especially among the miniature pendulous types, a class they tend to specialize in, the cross of *Cym.* (Bulbarrow x Janis Lin) in particular catching my eye. Based on the seedlings shown, the cross is probably producing just what was hoped for with small, floriferous plants carrying pendulous stems of novelty type miniature flowers. Colours ranged from parchment white to biscuit tones, some spotted, and all show-



Cym. Stonefree 'Apricot' an attractive orange toned intermediate.



Also from Kimberley Orchids, *Cym.* Careless Heart 'Cutie Pie'.

ing heavily marked labellums - another fine result in this popular *Cymbidium* type to follow on from their outstanding *Cym.* Little Sarah cross of a few years ago.

Generally, while actual plant numbers may have been a little down on previous years, the overall quality was as high as ever and the sheer variety of *Cymbidium* types on display which is a hallmark of this show and was at least equal to previous years.

The endless procession of happy shoppers making their way to the crowded car park with arms and trolley's full of orchids in flower shows just how popular orchids of all types are, particularly cymbidiums. Now if we could just get them all signed up as orchid club members . . .

Noe Smith
24 William Hunter Court



One part of the Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria display.

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Cym. Autumn Elf 'Libby'.

Cymbidium Club

20 Cymbidium

Text by Alec Canan

The Cymbidium Club of South Australia holds its annual Cymbidium of the Year competition in conjunction with the club's Annual General Meeting each February. Eligible plants for the competition are drawn from those which were shown at monthly meetings during the previous year and were chosen as the judges' choice on the night, and also from plants that won champion classes at club shows in that year and/or best or champion seedlings. The judging itself is done by the club members present on the February meeting night and follows a simple voting formula. All eligible plants are viewed on a Power Point presentation (in the past slides were used) as the club has made the switch to modern technology and has its own digital camera, computer and projector. All the pictures of the plants and flowers to be voted on were photographed by

our club photographer, with the same camera, so every entry starts of on equal terms.

Members fill out voting slips giving votes as they see fit to their selections from all the entries shown. Scores are tallied from that round and six (6) eligible finalists are viewed again, with the members voting again for their selection from that final group of entries.

At the end of the process there is only one winner, the plant with the most votes, our Cymbidium of the Year. This February, the plant chosen as the Cymbidium Club of South Australia Cymbidium of the Year for 2005 was *Cym. Valley Olympic 'Rose'* grown by Moss and Rosemary Bray of Sims Orchids.

The eighteen plants which were eligible for the 2005 com-



Cym. Beau Guest 'Glen'.



Cym. Night Flight 'Ashley'.

of South Australia

05

of the Year

Photography by John Seidel.



Cym. Lancashire Rose 'Evie'.

petition are included here, with descriptions of plant size, flower count, spike habit, etcetera.

Cym. Autumn Elf 'Libby'

This attractive pink intermediate, owned by Tom Burian, was shown as a mature multi-spiked plant with essentially arching stems with counts in the mid to high teens. Flowers were clear of the foliage and well spaced on the stem.

Cym. Beau Guest 'Glen'

Achieved success at the National Cymbidium Show for its owners, Sims Orchids, where it won Champion Small Standard. This shapely pure color of mid-green with a white and yellow labelum responded to good culture with tall spikes and good flower counts. Flowers are well spaced and the spike

count was in balance with the size of the plant.

Cym. Charmy Green 'Tori'

Shown by Malcolm and Gay Hall. This pretty intermediate pure color carried multiple spikes with flowers clear of the foliage. Its shapely flowers were totally white except for the highlight of bright yellow keels. Possibly its only shortcoming was that it could have done with a few more flowers per stem, but it may do better as a bigger plant and it did have plenty of spikes for its size.

Cym. Kirby Lesh '101 Dalmations'

Although only a very young seedling this nicely spotted example of a now famous grex shows potential with its large flat flowers. As the plant grows bigger, flower counts should



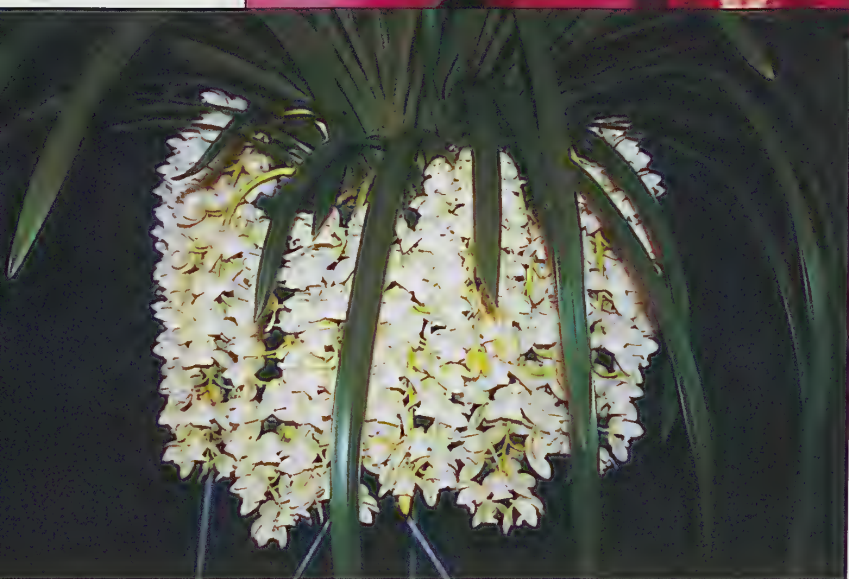
Cym. Kirby Lesh '101 Dalmations'.



Cym. Lunar Wal 'Dural'.



Cym. Phar Lap
'Geyserland'.



Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'.

increase. Grown and shown by Alec and Christine Canala.

***Cym. Lancashire Rose* 'Evie'**

From Sims Orchids and was shown as a large multi-spiked plant with upright spikes. Its shapely bright pink blooms are highlighted with strong yellow centres in the labelums.

***Cym. Lunar Wall* 'Dural'**

With its large shapely flowers in yellow overlaid with red blushing and its tall semi-arching spikes, this is an eye catching *Cymbidium*. Flowers were carried well clear of the foliage on this plant shown by Vic Haskard.

Cym. (Lunata x Willunga Royal)

Owned by Malcolm and Gay Halls,



*Cym. Sweet
Devon '1103'.*

this small seedling carried one tall upright spike of twelve fully formed, heavily purple blushed flowers that were well spaced on the stem.

Cym. Night Flight 'Ashley'

This attractive miniature carried tall upright spikes holding the flowers well clear of the foliage when shown. Shape was good and their dark wine red coloring was very rich. Owned by. Adrian Addison and Janele Jarmyn.

Cym. Phar Lap 'Geyserland'

Shown by Helmut Gerber, this was a well grown specimen plant with a good display of arching spikes all around the plant. While this clone has been around a while it isn't often seen presented this well.



Cym. Charmy Green 'Tori'.



Cym. (Lunata x Willunga Royal).

***Cym.* Ruby Valley 'Clare'**

Owned and shown by Sims Orchids, this tall spiking intermediate showed all the traits this grex is known for, good flower count per spike, flower shape, intense dark red flower colour and striking red banded labellums.

***Cym.* Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'**

This plant has been a show-winning miniature *Cymbidium* for many years and when flowered and presented like this specimen grown by Graham and Maureen Hazeldine it's easy to see why. Compact growing, vigorous, floriferous, and producing masses of concolor white blooms on pendulous spikes... what's not to love!



Cym. (Valley Gratitude x Dorothea Paige).



Cym. (Valley Zenith x Kelly's Winter).

***Cym.* Sims Vision 'Barcelona'**

With its shapely white blushed flowers, tall spikes, floriferousness and vigorous growth, this clone from Sims Orchids has become popular among small standard cymbidiums. This flowering, with three spikes of between twelve and sixteen flowers per inflorescence is typical of the production on a moderate sized plant.

***Cym.* Sweet Devon '1103'**

This plant was shown by Malcolm and Gay Halls, and was an outstanding example of this primary hybrid between *Cym.* (*devonianum* x *suave*). Long pendulous spikes surrounded the pot carrying hundreds of small dark green blooms highlighted by almost solid purple lips.



Cym. Valley Olympic 'Rose'.



Cym. (Wallamurra x Yowie Flame).



Cym. Ruby Valley 'Clare'.

***Cym.* (Valley Gratitude x Dorothea Paige)**

Shown as a seedling flowering for the first time by Alec and Christine Canala. One tall spike carried thirteen good sized and well spaced flowers.

***Cym.* (Valley Zenith x Kelly's Winter)**

This single spiked first flowering seedling went on to become the SAGE Horticultural Cymbidium Seedling of the Year for owners Sims Orchids. With one tall spike of twelve large and shapely clean green blooms this is a fine result from what has proven to be a very successful crossing.

***Cym.* Valley Olympic 'Rose'**

A quality flowering of this attractive clone for Sims Orchids. This floriferous intermediate with its shapely bright

pink blooms went on to become our Cymbidium of the Year for 2005. Congratulations to Moss and Rosemary.

***Cym.* (Wallamurra x Yowie Flame)**

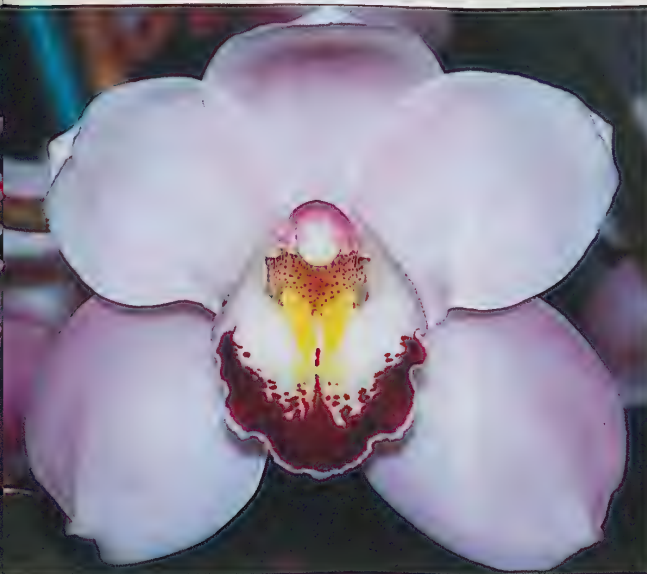
Also from Sims Orchids, this plant carried two spikes of ten and eleven flowers of good size and dark pink colouring, with Wallamurra-influenced lips.

***Cym.* (Willunga Eye Catcher x Tracey Reddaway)**

This intermediate yellow with its striking red-banded label-lums was shown as a multiple spiked plant by Sims Orchids. The flowers were displayed above the foliage on tall and erect spikes.

Alec Canala

117 Smart Road, Modbury, South Australia 5092



Cym. Sims Vision 'Barcelona'.



Cym. (Willunga Eye Catcher x Tracey Reddaway).



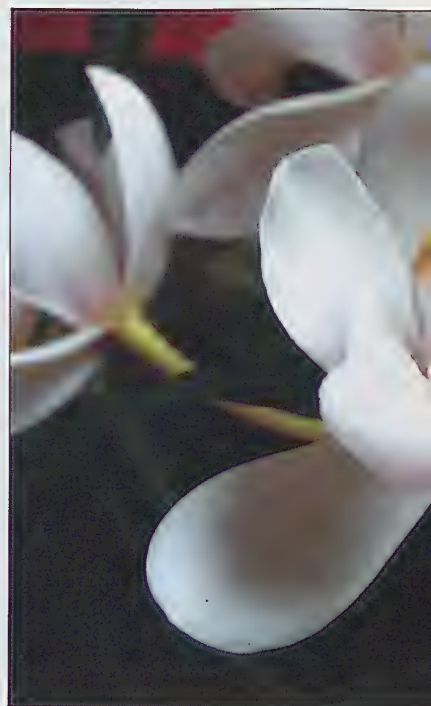
Heavy spotting and contrasting labellums provide variety among *Cymbidium* types.

Cymbidiums – Something For Everyone

Text and photography by Rob Smith



Large pastel pink *Cymbidium* flowers and always popular.



Over the years *Cymbidiums* Australia has showcased the ever expanding variety of sizes, shapes, colors and types available across the genus *Cymbidium*. There are cymbidiums available which will provide flowers during just about every month of the year thanks to the work of hybridizers who are willing to think and work outside of the mainstream and develop hybrid lines which expand on previously proven types and incorporate hitherto little used species. At the same time, the variety and sophistication of *Cymbidium* hybrids which flower through the traditional peak season of winter and spring continues to progress at a surprising rate. For example, the dramatic improvements in large flower red colored breeding lines, the development of orange colored cymbidiums and the ever increasing variety and quality of flower form being seen in intermediate and miniature types.

Cymbidiums still represent possibly the most approachable genus within the orchid family for the vast majority of Australians in our most populous states and cities. Cymbidiums can be grown and flowered with the minimum of fuss and without overly specialized equipment or housing in so many areas. For the most part they do not require heated glass houses in winter, or expensive cooling systems during summer, being content to grow and flower with only a little shade, regular watering and a little fertilizer. Even the most extreme of our summer weather usually causes little harm

provided the plants are given extra water during hot spells. Of course, like any plant, they will respond, grow and flower even better with a little extra tender loving care, or more specialized care and attention, but they remain the ideal orchid, capable of rewarding the casual grower with beautiful flowers, even if grown hard and kept under a tree in the back yard, while also being capable of providing the enthusiast with show winning blooms and massed floral displays to draw ooh's and aah's from show visitors and the general public.

Cymbidiums provide a color range which spans the rainbow, with the exception of the color blue, but all other colors are represented in a variety of shades and hues with combinations of color in the form of blushes, splashes, spots and stripes. Within the genus *Cymbidium* flower size ranges from as small as a five cent piece to as large as a saucer and flower shapes vary from circular in outline with broad segments giving a filled in appearance, to starry, wispy and delicate, or twisted, sinuous and exotic.

Cymbidiums may be dainty little plants with cascading stems carrying masses of perky little blooms, imposing plants with



Novelty pendulous types like this *Cym. Bulbarrow* are ideal for hanging pots.

Concolor white miniatures like this *Cym. Janis Lin* produce plenty of flowers on small plants.



This show display by Ezi-Gro Orchids showcases the variety available among cymbidiums.



DAVID
KEANELLY
ORCHIDS

CYMBIDIUM
ORCHIDS

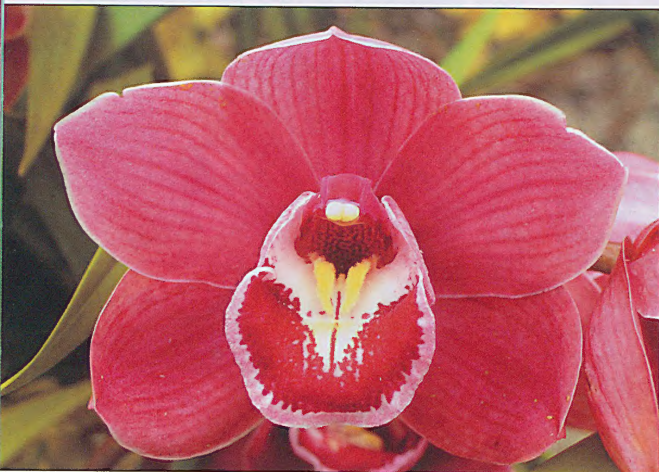
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Bright colours and strongly marked labellums create eye-catching flowers.



Dozens of flowers can be produced on well-grown miniature flowered cymbidiums.

tall strong stems displaying a dozen or even two dozen large full shaped flowers, or anything in between. To some people these very attributes seem to elicit a form of disparaging snobbery in attitude towards the genus as if, somehow, their very versatility, adaptability, robustness and popularity make them something less of an orchid, or less of a challenge, than the culture of some more obscure (although not necessarily more difficult) genus within the orchid family. To

each his or her own I suppose, although I've never understood this attitude. I suspect that cymbidiums have probably introduced more people to the culture of orchids of all types than any other genera and certainly the growing of them to their full potential is as challenging as it is for any other genus of orchids.

Cymbidiums are also surprisingly affordable orchids thanks largely to the fact that cymbidiums are one of the orchid genera

which are capable of being cloned. This process which, when applied to orchids, is called mericlone, and has meant that large numbers of exact replicas of any *Cymbidium* variety can be produced at a relatively low cost. Even the latest successful show or award winning cymbidiums can be made available within a few years at prices which even a generation ago would have seemed ridiculously cheap. Alongside the clones are a seemingly never ending variety of new hybrids available as seedling plants at very reasonable prices, usually cheaper than clones of an equivalent size. Seedlings bring with them the potential for the flowering of new, different and hopefully better flowers than the parent plants they were bred from and provide the possibility, for those willing to take a gamble, of flowering something outstanding. While the percentage of seedlings which turn out to be champions is of course quite low, many of the flowers produced will still be attractive and appealing and, of course, it's certainly true that every champion was a seedling once as were all those desirable plants which are now available as mericlones.

Regardless of whether cymbidiums begin and remain as your exclusive orchid genera, or lead you to a broader collection including other genera, it is hard to deny the variety available in cymbidiums, as they surely must offer something for everyone.

[Editor's Note: One of the best parts of working on Cymbidiums Australia is that we are constantly reminded of just how beautiful cymbidiums can be. One of the other best parts is knowing how many people there are who also get so much pleasure and satisfaction from the growing of these wonderful orchids. Hopefully we can all go on enjoying them for a very long time to come.]

Rob Smith

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13-15 October 2006 – Southern Orchid Spectacular, Cronulla, NSW

21 October 2006 – Orchid SPECIES (NSW) Auction, West Pennant Hills, NSW

4-5 November 2006 – Tweed Orchid Fair, Tweed Heads, NSW

3 December 2006 – Easy Orchids Open Day, 183 Windsor Road, Northmead, NSW

2007

29-30 September 2007 – South and West Regional Orchid Conference – "Orchid Heaven 007", Bega NSW





Cuitlauzina pendula showing
typical colour form.

Plant – Dieter Weise

Photography – David P. Banks